

Sakharov is dead

World leaders mourn human rights champion

MOSCOW, Dec 15, (Agencies): Sakharov, the brilliant physicist who built the Soviet hydrogen bomb, won the Nobel peace prize and became an unwavering beacon for the cause of human rights, has died at 68.

The man who went from exile to a seat in the new Soviet parliament died alone in his study last night of apparent heart attack, said his son-in-law, Yefrem Yankelevich. He had earlier in the day given an impassioned speech charging the Soviet hierarchy with leading the country to catastrophe.

BANGLADESH
A four-page (17-20) supplement with today's issue, on the Victory Day of Bangladesh.

NEWSWATCH

Extradition of 7

CAIRO, Dec 15, (Kuna): Egypt will seek extradition of seven Egyptian nationals working in Kuwait for involvement in smuggling foreign currencies into the country, reliable security sources told Kuna yesterday.

The sources said investigation by Egyptian authorities disclosed that the seven were involved in a gang for illegal dealing in hard currencies and that they had collected an equivalent of £34 million from fellow citizens in Kuwait this month and sent the sum to Egypt.

Religious approval

CAIRO, Dec 15, (Reuters): One of the Arab world's top composers/singers, won religious approval yesterday for a record called blasphemous by some Muslims because it questions the meaning of life.

386 prisoners freed

DHAKA, Dec 15, (AP): The government has freed 386 prisoners to mark independence day, an Interior Ministry statement said today.

Among the prisoners released were 227 people held under a special act that empowers the government to arrest and jail anyone without showing cause.

US warning

WASHINGTON, Dec 15, (Reuters): The United States said today it was concerned that terrorists may be planning attacks against targets in Western Europe and West Africa, possibly including Americans.

No prosecution

EDINBURGH, Dec 15, (Reuters): Scotland's top law officer said the investigation into the bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet over Lockerbie, which killed 270 people a year ago had made progress but no prosecution was yet in sight.

"While encouraging progress continues to be made towards our goal of criminal prosecution, we have not yet reached the stage where proceedings can be immediately in progress," Lord Fraser, the Scottish lord advocate, told journalists.

No French ships

PARIS, Dec 15, (UPI): France said yesterday that Libya has closed its ports to French ships in the latest twist of a rancorous dispute in which Libyan leader Col Muammar Khaddafi accuses Paris of waging "a campaign of oppression" against Muslims.

The Quai d'Orsay expressed its "surprise and reproach" at the boycott by Tripoli and called for it to be raised immediately.

Mass grave

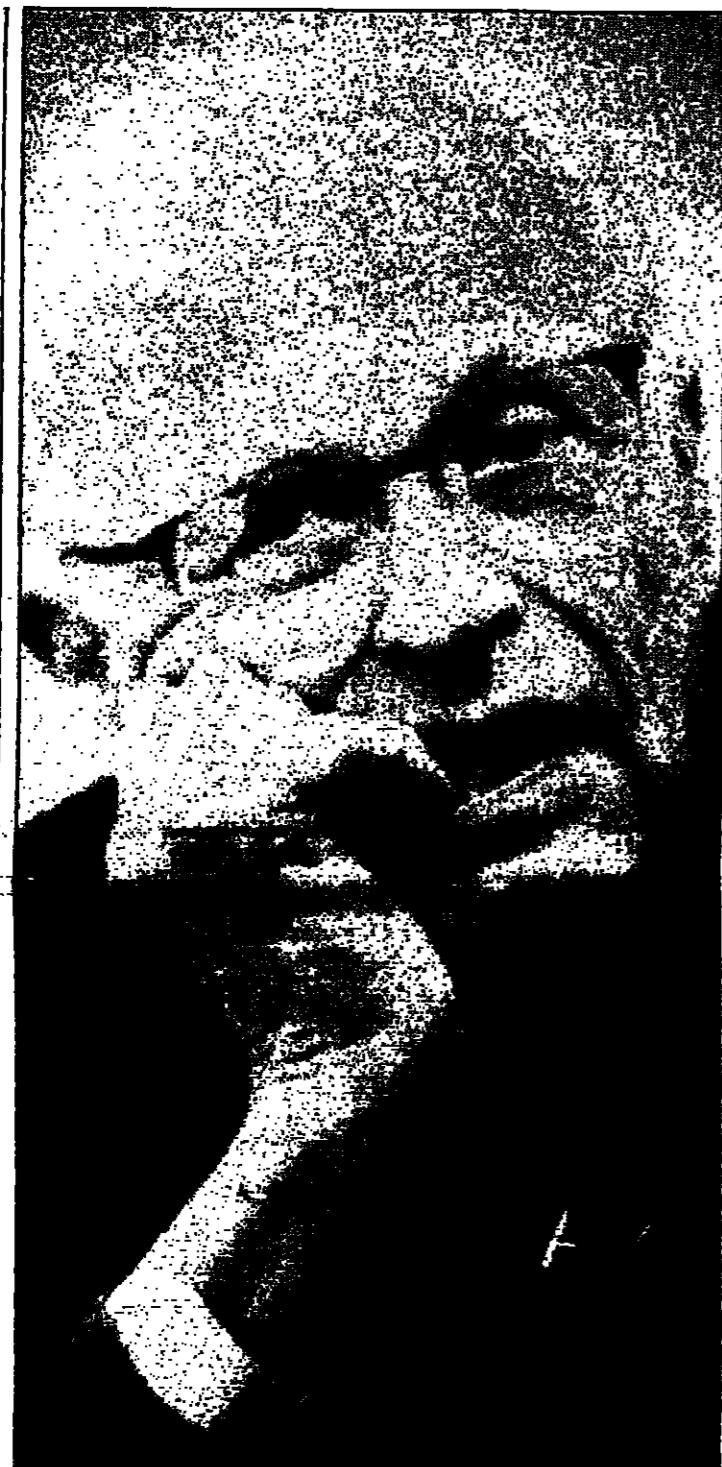
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 15, (AP): Officials today announced the discovery of a mass grave containing the remains of 35 children of North African Jewish immigrants who died after a 1957 epidemic, Israel television reported.

The report ended a day of prayers and accusations by Yemenite Jews who feared the graves could contain the bones of an estimated 600 children from their community reported missing in the 1950s, shortly after their arrival in Israel.

Noriega named chief of government

PANAMA CITY, Dec 15, (AP): An assembly controlled by Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega named him chief of government today.

The unanimous resolution by the 510-member people's assembly, said Noriega was being designated "maximum leader for national liberation."



Sakharov at his last meeting at the Soviet Academy of Sciences in Moscow on Dec 7. (Reuter wirephoto)

Palestinians raid Syrian base, 14 die

Threat to kill Pope

storey Syrian headquarters at Rmaileh, 32 km (20 miles) south of Beirut.

The building was blasted and raked with fire during the exchanges. An unknown number of prisoners were set free, the sources said.

Palestinian sources said the captive Palestinian officer was rescued. Pro-Syrian forces say he was moved to another area.

An estimated 1,200 Syrian soldiers were sent from Beirut to reinforce Rmaileh yesterday. They drove to the base in armoured troop carriers and aboard jeeps.

The commandos clashed with gunmen of the Lebanese Communist Party and the Sunni Muslim Popular Liberation Army (PLA) on their way back to the nearby Palestinian camp of Miyeh Miyeh.

Three PLA militiamen, two communists and a Tawheed attacker were among the dead.

A Muslim extremist group threatened in a statement to an international news agency in West Beirut yesterday to kill Pope John Paul because it said he supported Arafat.

The 100-strong Palestinian and Tawheed force, armed with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns, fought their way into the three-

President Mikhail Gorbachev, who freed Sakharov from nearly seven years of internal exile in Gorky but clashed with him repeatedly over the scale and speed of new Soviet political reforms, mourned the death as "a great loss."

"He was a man of conviction and sincerity," Gorbachev said. "He was not some sort of political intriguer. He was a person who had his own ideas, his own convictions which he expressed openly and directly. This doesn't mean I agreed with him, although on many things we did agree."

Sakharov risked his status as a national scientific hero and the honours the Soviet Union had heaped upon him to openly challenge the government when most others were silent. He was vilified, attacked by the authorities and banished from Moscow in 1980. The exile sapped his vitality and undermined his health.

After he was freed by Gorbachev in 1986, he won a seat in the Soviet Congress. He used it as a forum to press for reform and freedom in his country, gaining new stature as a conscience of the nation.

Tributes to the brave humanist came from around the world.

Sakharov's death occurred after a long day of struggle to organise an opposition to the Communist Party. He died in his downstairs study as he was about to prepare a speech demanding that the communists' guaranteed hold on power be revoked, Yankelevich said.

Yelena Bonner, Sakharov's wife who accompanied him into exile and in his human rights crusades, went downstairs about two hours later and found him dead, the keys to the study still in his hand.

Sakharov's final words to his family were: "Tomorrow there will be battle," Yankelevich said.

Just hours before he died, Sakharov stood on the floor of the Congress of People's Deputies and demanded that opposition delegates form an alternative party to the communists.

He told his fellow opposition congressmen that Gorbachev and the Communist Party leadership were "leading the country to catastrophe, prolonging the process of perestroika many years."

Vitaly Voronikov, a member of the presidium of the congress, opened today's session with news of the death. He paid tribute to Sakharov both as a scientist and a public figure.

"All that he did was dictated by his sleepless conscience, his deep humanitarian convictions," said Voronikov, a member of the ruling Communist Party Politburo and president of the Russian federation.

"With Sakharov, a part of our heart has departed from us," Dmitri Likhachev, another scholar-deputy, told the chamber.

The 2,250-seat congress formed a committee to organise Sakharov's funeral, and Gorbachev said he and the entire body would attend. At his own request, Sakharov will be buried alongside his parents Monday at Vostochnovokos cemetery on the southwestern edge of Moscow, said a scientific secretary at the Lebedev physics institute.

President George Bush, in a message of condolence, praised Sakharov's courage and devotion to freedom and said the Nobel peace prize winner was an example of "goodness and decency."

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher mourned the Soviet human rights champion as a remarkable and courageous man whose death left a great vacuum.

French President Francois Mitterrand paid homage to Sakharov, calling him a pioneer of human rights who combined scientific rigour with humanitarian values.

Nato foreign ministers meeting in Brussels, Belgium, hailed him as a pioneer who helped change Soviet society.

(See Page 12)

'Iraq building nuclear bomb'

US voices concern

WASHINGTON, Dec 15, (Reuters): The United States is concerned by reports that Iraq may be developing a nuclear weapon, but has no confirmation that China may be helping in the process, a State Department spokesman said yesterday.

"We view with concern any reports on the proliferation of sensitive nuclear technologies," spokesman Richard Boucher said at a briefing in response to questions about a British newsletter's account of Iraq's alleged nuclear weapons programme.

The British-based Mideast Markets Newsletter said Iraq is trying to build a nuclear bomb with Chinese help and has established a network of companies in Europe to procure equipment and expertise.



Relieved at last

Rubia (left) sobs as she meets her father after arriving in New Delhi from Srinagar. (Reuter wirephoto)

Israelis shoot at girls

OCCUPIED NABLUS, Dec 15, (Reuters): Troops were hacked to control violence in parts of India's Kashmir territory after police shot dead at least four people today.

An organisation representing five militants who were freed in exchange for the kidnapped daughter of an interior minister, meanwhile, announced that they had taken up arms again.

The authorities extended a curfew to the state capital Srinagar, Shopian and Anantnag today in a bid to check the wave of violence set off by a separatist campaign.

Restrictions were placed on the northwestern towns of Baramulla and Sopore yesterday.

Two people died when police opened fire on an angry crowd in Anantnag and two more were shot by police in Shopian.

The crowds were protesting against the deaths of two people yesterday in an attack on a police station in Sopore.

Troops were called out in Srinagar to keep the peace during Friday prayers in the main mosque of India's only Muslim majority state, and in Anantnag.

S.S. Ali, deputy inspector general of police of Jammu-Kashmir state, said the army was placed on alert and a curfew imposed in Srinagar, home of 700,000 people, as a precautionary measure.

"We fear that the terrorists may try to create lots of disturbance, hence we have taken the steps," Ali said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said five militants freed on Wednesday in exchange for the daughter of Indian Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed had taken a fresh oath of loyalty. "They have taken up arms again," said a JKLF statement sent to reporters.

There was jubilation and dancing on the streets of Srinagar when the five were swapped for 23-year-old Rubia Sayeed, who had been held by the JKLF for five days.

The state's chief minister, Farooq Abdullah, flew to New Delhi for talks with Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who took office two weeks ago.

Singh, who has made Kashmir a top priority for his new government, told his first news conference today.

Troops called out in Kashmir

4 shot dead

SRINAGAR, Dec 15, (Agencies): Troops were called out to control violence in parts of India's Kashmir territory after police shot dead at least four people today.

An organisation representing five militants who were freed in exchange for the kidnapped daughter of an interior minister, meanwhile, announced that they had taken up arms again.

The authorities extended a curfew to the state capital Srinagar, Shopian and Anantnag today in a bid to check the wave of violence set off by a separatist campaign.

Restrictions were placed on the northwestern towns of Baramulla and Sopore yesterday.

Two people died when police opened fire on an angry crowd in Anantnag and two more were shot by police in Shopian.

The crowds were protesting against the deaths of two people yesterday in an attack on a police station in Sopore.

Troops were called out in Srinagar to keep the peace during Friday prayers in the main mosque of India's only Muslim majority state, and in Anantnag.

S.S. Ali, deputy inspector general of police of Jammu-Kashmir state, said the army was placed on alert and a curfew imposed in Srinagar, home of 700,000 people, as a precautionary measure.

"We fear that the terrorists may try to create lots of disturbance, hence we have taken the steps," Ali said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said five militants freed on Wednesday in exchange for the daughter of Indian Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed had taken a fresh oath of loyalty. "They have taken up arms again," said a JKLF statement sent to reporters.

There was jubilation and dancing on the streets of Srinagar when the five were swapped for 23-year-old Rubia Sayeed, who had been held by the JKLF for five days.

The state's chief minister, Farooq Abdullah, flew to New Delhi for talks with Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who took office two weeks ago.

Singh, who has made Kashmir a top priority for his new government, told his first news conference today.

Pakistan will send back Iran culprits

NICOSIA, Dec 15, (Reuters): Pakistan has agreed to arrest and extradite convicts and "counter-revolutionaries" who have fled there from neighbouring Iran, Iran's Izma news agency reported today.

It said the accord was reached at joint security talks in the southeastern Iranian city of Zahedan.

SHARP

FACSIMILE

FO-220

High Speed

Ultra Compact

32 Auto Dialing

Numbers

MASEELAH TRDG. CO. W.L.L.

BUSINESS MACHINE DIV.

TEL: 244 8591-244 5040 ext. 300/315

24 PAGES 150 FILS

Mutiny in Davao, troops rushed

MANILA, Dec 15, (AP): Hundreds of troops rushed to a major southern city today amid reports that rebel soldiers plan new attacks against President Corazon Aquino. A general said the situation was "a little bit explosive."

Also today, the nation's leading cleric delivered an unusually strong attack on inefficiency and nepotism in the Aquino government, which is deeply shaken by a failed coup launched Dec 1.

In Davao, 960 kilometres (560 miles) south of Manila, Brig. Gen. Mariano Baccay said 500 marines were flown to the city early today from Zamboanga to secure the airport, banks and other key installations following reports of rebel troop movements.

Baccay told reporters in unknown number of rebels had left their garrison, about 240 kilometres (150 miles) north of Davao. They were heading for Davao but their current location was unknown, he said. Roadblocks were set up near Davao, the largest city on Mindanao island.

"The situation is a little bit explosive," said Brig. Gen. Braulio Balbas, deputy chief of the southern command. "But the armed forces of the Philippines is on top of the situation. We have our forces deployed in certain areas to meet any contingency that might arise."

Balbas said the mutineers are led by Col Alexander Noble, former deputy chief of Presidential Guards under the late president Ferdinand Marcos.

Noble was reported to have escaped after mutineers who seized a military air base in the central province of Cebu surrendered Dec 9, ending the sixth coup attempt against Aquino after nine days.

Officials said more than 1,500 rebellious soldiers remained at large, scattered across the archipelago despite the crushing of the mutiny that left 119 people dead and more than 600 wounded.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos played down threats of an uprising in Davao, saying, "that's being attended to even before the movement started ... really, small numbers are involved here."

Docs overlook half of depressed patients: problem missed

SANTA MONICA, California, Dec 15. (AP): Doctors fail to recognize severe depression in half the patients who suffer it, and the problem is even worse in prepaid health plans where doctors may be under more pressure to keep costs down, researchers said.

"Depression is quite serious," said Dr Kenneth Wells, chief author of the study. "It's eminently treatable." And yet, he said, general practitioners, internists and other professionals not specializing

in mental health often miss the problem.

The findings suggest doctors should get better mental health training, and be given better techniques, such as patient questionnaires, to detect depression, said Wells, a psychiatrist at the University of California, Los Angeles, and senior researcher at the Rand Corp. think tank in Santa Monica.

The study, published in Friday's Journal of the American Medical Association, involved 650 severely depressed patients and more than 500

doctors in Los Angeles, Chicago and Boston. The researchers found general medical doctors paid on a fee-for-service basis detected just 54 per cent of depressed patients, while prepaid doctors recognised only 42 per cent of such people. The latter category includes doctors employed by health maintenance organisations, or HMOs, and physicians who provide prepaid care in solo and group practices.

Psychiatrists and psychologists did far better

than general doctors, and there was no significant difference between those paid by the visit and those paid in advance, the study found. Mental health specialists working in prepaid programmes recognised depression 83 per cent of the time, and others spotted it 86 per cent of the time.

"I know depression is missed," said Dr Charles McElroy, president of the Los Angeles County Medical Association. "All doctors have to be on the lookout for the depressed patient. This study will

help raise everybody's level of awareness."

Stuart Byer, president of the California Association of HMOs, said he couldn't explain why prepaid doctors were less likely than others to recognise depression. But he said other studies show doctors in HMOs—which were established to control spiraling medical costs—"deliver better care by not over-prescribing drugs, procedures and hospitalisation."

While everyone feels sad at times, 9.4 million

people in the United States suffer clinical depression during any six-month period, according to the American Psychiatric Association, which calls depression "the most common and treatable of all mental illnesses."

"One in four women and one in 10 men can expect to develop it during their lifetime. Between 80 per cent and 90 per cent of those who suffer depression can be effectively treated" by medication or psychotherapy, an APA pamphlet said.

Aspirin-birth defect link disputed

BOSTON, Dec 15. (UPI): Taking aspirin early in pregnancy does not appear to increase the chances that a woman will give birth to a baby with a defective heart, researchers reported in a finding contrary to previous studies.

In the largest study of its kind, Boston University researchers failed to find any significant association between aspirin use and

five types of potentially fatal heart birth defects.

The take-home message is that, based on the largest study to date, aspirin does not appear to increase the risk of these five cardiac defects," said Martha Werler, an epidemiologist at Boston University School of Public Health who led the study.

Swissair, your ticket to the world: For business, for skiing.

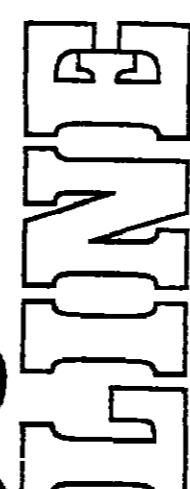
Talk business - or take a break. Swissair flies to the world's capital cities via Geneva or Zurich; just a tantalising few hours from the world's top ski resorts. Business or pleasure. Or both. Discerning passengers prefer Swissair.

swissair



WINTER

Wataniya Building, Lower level, Salmiya. Opposite the Zahra Complex.



Define moment of death — Pope

VATICAN CITY, Dec 15. (AP): Citing ethical problems involved with organ transplants, Pope John Paul II yesterday called for stepped-up scientific research to determine the exact moment of death.

Addressing scientists in Vatican City to study the problem, John Paul spoke of the "tragic dilemma" of a sick person urgently needing a transplant from someone whose death remained in doubt.

"The respect due to human life absolutely prohibits the direct and positive sacrifice of that life, even though it may be for the benefit of another human being who might be felt to be entitled to preference," the Pope said.

Once a determination has been arrived at, the Pope said, "then the apparent conflict, between the duty to respect the life of one person and the duty to effect a cure or even save the life of another disappears."

"One would be able to know at what moment it would be perfectly permissible to do what had been definitely forbidden previously, namely, the removal of an organ for transplanting, with the best chances of a successful outcome."

The meeting was organised by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, an advisory body to the papacy, which first took up the issue of defining the moment of death in 1985.

The Vatican yesterday cautioned Roman Catholics that Eastern meditation practices such as zen and yoga can "degenerate into a cult of the body" that debases Christian prayer. "The love of God, the sole object of Christian contemplation, is a reality which cannot be mastered by any method or technique," said a document issued by the congregation for the doctrine of the faith.

The document, approved by Pope John Paul II and addressed to bishops, said attempts to combine Christian meditation with Eastern techniques were fraught with danger although they can have positive uses.

It said the practices "can degenerate into a cult of the body and can lead surreptitiously to considering all bodily sensations as spiritual experiences."

The 23-page document, signed by the West German congregation Head Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, was believed the first time the Vatican sought to respond to the pull of Eastern religious practices.

Ratzinger said at a news conference that the document was not condemning Eastern meditation practices but was elaborating guidelines for proper Christian prayer.

Postures

By Eastern methods, a footnote said, the document was referring to practices inspired by Hinduism and Buddhism such as zen, transcendental meditation and yoga, which involves prescribed postures and controlled breathing.

"Some people today turn to these methods for therapeutic reasons. The spiritual restlessness arising from a life subjected to the driving pace of a technologically advanced society also brings a certain number of Christians to seek in these methods of prayer a path to interior peace and psychic balance," the document said.

"Other Christians, caught up in the movement towards openness and exchanges between various religious and cultures, are of the opinion that their prayer has much to gain from these methods."

"Observing that in recent times many traditional methods of meditation, especially Christian ones, have fallen into disuse, they wonder whether it might not now be possible, by a new training in prayer, to enrich our heritage by incorporating what has until now been foreign to it."

Personal

The document defined Christian prayer as a "personal, intimate and profound dialogue between man and God."

Such prayer "leaves from impersonal techniques or from concentrating on oneself, which can create a kind of rut, imprisoning the person praying in a spiritual privation."

The document expressed particular concern over misconceptions about body postures in meditation.



Santa takes a peek

A Santa Claus takes a peek at a two-month-old baby girl who is suffering congenital dislocated hips as he presents Christmas gift to patients at the

Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital in Hong Kong Dec 14. (Reuter wirephoto)

High blood pressure

Calcium diet cure

MEDICAL FILE

Smoking habits linked: The less education people have, the more likely they are to smoke cigarettes, the US centres for Disease Control has reported on Thursday.

A CDC study, conducted in 36 states and the district of Columbia in 1988, showed about 45 percent of people age 18 to 34 with less than a high school education smoked regularly. About 35 percent of those with a high school education smoked, while only 20 percent with some college smoked.

The same pattern held true for older adults, although the differences between the groups decreased as the population got older, CDC officials said.

CDC spokeswoman Margaret Pickrel said the new findings have prompted the agency to seek new ways of reaching the less educated, who also usually have lower incomes. (UPI)

Premies still dying: Despite the latest advances and more aggressive efforts, doctors have been largely unable to increase the survival rate for the most premature babies, researchers reported.

Researchers at case Western Reserve University's medical school in Cleveland found the chances of survival remained low for premature babies born less than 25 weeks into their development.

"I think we've reached the limits," said Dr. Maureen Hack, an associate professor of pediatrics who led a new study published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The question of when a baby is viable outside the womb has been an issue in the nation's abortion debate, the researchers noted.

"With pregnancy being terminated in some parts of the United States late in the second trimester and with live-born infants delivered at 22 weeks of gestational age occasionally surviving, it is imperative to determine the probability of survival for extremely low-birth-weight infants," they said. (UPI)

Woman makes history: A Canadian woman has made medical history this week by giving birth to a baby, using an American company who manufactured her defective mechanical heart valve.

Connie Cooper, from Mississauga, just outside of Canada's largest city, Toronto, launched a lawsuit against Shiley Incorporated (a subsidiary of Pfizer Inc. of Irvine, California) for mental distress caused by the heart valve. It is the first time anyone wins a settlement from the company without a valve having broken inside her body.

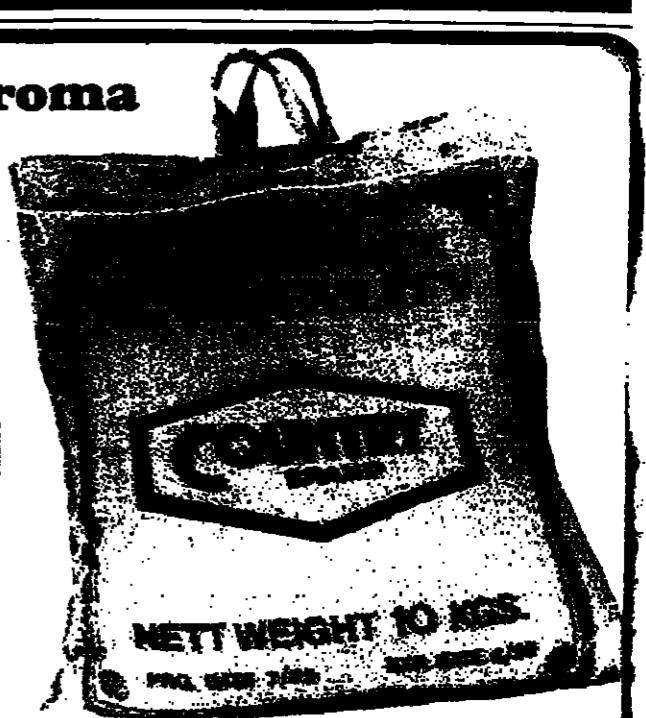
Cooper says she lives with the fear each day that the valve might break and kill her or cause severe damage to her body.

Bingo Day 14
61 52 57 47

For the real aroma
and taste of
Basmati
rice

ASK FOR

COUNTRY
BRAND



Give yourself a tasty treat
today. Go for super quality
rice and taste the difference!

Tel. 2423503-2424671

**Lookalikes**

Emily Schapman of Birmingham, Ala and Robert Nall of Hudson, Ohio pose as Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler from the movie 'Gone With the Wind' after they won a lookalike contest on Dec 12. The movie celebrates its 50th anniversary this week. (Reuter wirephoto)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

GULF BREEZE, Florida: Diminutive **Barbara Mezze** giggles and plays with toys like any other 5-year-old, but unlike her peers, the dark-haired tot can break inch-thick (25 mm thick) boards with her hands and feet.

"Jina is basically a happy-go-lucky 5-year-old, but she's much more too," said Dan Mezze of Gulf breeze about his daughter, who recently earned her first-degree black belt in *Tae Kwon Do*, a Korean self-defense technique.

Jina became interested in martial arts two years ago when she watched her older brother practicing his moves. He also has a first-degree black belt, as does his mother. (UPI)

SEARCY, Arkansas: A man has been sentenced to two years in jail for slapping his 4-year-old son when he caught the boy smilling gasoline, a prosecutor said Wednesday.

Richard Lewis Vardaman, 42, of Georgetown, Arkansas, pleaded guilty to battery and was sentenced last week by judge **Cecil Tedder**. (AP)

NEW YORK: Sing has been sung. "3 Penny Opera," a revival of the Bertolt Brecht-Kurt Weill musical starring the British rock star as *Mack the Knife*, will close December 31 after only a two-month run, a spokesman for the musical says.

It will have played 65 regular performances and 20 previews, said spokesman **Pete Sanders**. The musical, which received largely negative reviews, has played to steadily dwindling audiences since opening November 5 at the *June Fontaine Theatre*. (AP)

MOORHEAD, Minnesota: Mistletoe has been banned from Moorhead State University after a psychology instructor filed a grievance saying she believed it encourages sexual harassment.

University president **Roland Dille** agreed after instructor **Margaret Potter**, and the affirmative action officer then ordered the ban Monday.

"I'm not against Christmas, honestly," said Dille. "But we've come a long way in eliminating some of the customs that encouraged a very different treatment of women. In my opinion, Mistletoe tends to sanctify uninvited endearment." (AP)

MORGES, Switzerland: **Thierry Rousset**, former French husband of the late **Christina Onassis**, will live with their billionaire daughter **Athena** in a property above Lake Geneva, local officials said Thursday.

Christina Onassis married **Rousset** — her fourth husband — in 1984 and they bought a large house in the village of Gingins, near Geneva and above the lake.

Daughter **Athena** was born before the couple divorced in 1985 after less than two years of marriage and **Rousset**, himself from a wealthy family in pharmaceuticals, left Switzerland.

Christina Onassis died in Buenos Aires in 1988 and **Athena**, now four years old, inherited a fortune estimated at \$1 billion at least. The girl was placed in **Rousset's** charge. (UPI)

SANTA YNEZ, California: A fire that broke out at pop star **Michael Jackson's** ranch destroyed a barn and killed several fish but three giraffes housed in the barn and several chimpanzees and a small herd of llamas kept near the building managed to escape the flames, fire officials said Wednesday.

The fire, which apparently started accidentally, was discovered Tuesday evening by security guards at the ranch, about 150 miles (240 km) northwest of Los Angeles, and was reported to the Santa Barbara county fire department about 6:40 pm.

Jackson was not at the ranch at the time, and he was not available for comment.

Sheriff's deputy **Don Friedli** said the first firefighters to arrive at the scene found the giraffe burn engulfed in flames. (UPI)

LAUSANNE, Switzerland: Swiss watchmakers, who make timepieces out of everything from gold to plastic, now want you to wear a cuckoo on your wrist.

The Swiss Cuckoo Watch, complete with alpine chalet, pine cones and mountain flowers is about to make its debut on the market, the newspaper *24 Heures* added.

Unlike the traditional cuckoo clock, the bird will not pop out and sing the hours but will instead move one second. It is expected to cost less than 100 Swiss francs (\$65). (Reuter)

Don Johnson captures burglar

LOS ANGELES, Dec 15, (AP): Actor Don Johnson testified that he confronted a burglar suspect inside his hotel room, then called upon his "Miami Vice" cop show experience and ordered the intruder to the floor.

"I'm a fan," defendant **Henry Rosenbaum** cried, according to Johnson's testimony yesterday in a preliminary court hearing.

Johnson is the star of *Miami Vice*, a popular American television show in which he plays a suave but street-smart Miami police officer with a two-

day stubble on his face, pastel-coloured casual clothes and fast automobiles.

Johnson told municipal court judge **Richard G. Berry** that he and his then-fiancée **Melanie Griffith** and son **Jesse** were returning to their hotel *Bel-Air* room Jan 29 when Rosenbaum was discovered in the suite's bedroom.

"He was bent over my wife's overnight bag. He was going through my wife's things," Johnson said.

The actor left **Melanie** and his son in the living room and confronted Rosenbaum in the

bedroom, ordering him to lie down on the floor and put his hands behind his head, Johnson testified.

The actor searched Rosenbaum, 35, for a weapon and found "a metal device of some sort." It was later identified as a diamond tester.

"I ordered him not to speak," Johnson said when asked about any discussion prior to the arrival of a lawyer.

Melanie Griffith didn't attend the hearing, which will decide whether Rosenbaum must stand trial on a felony burglary charge.

Soviet seeks freedom

Star defects to US

ST. PAUL, Minnesota, Dec 15, (Reuter): A 24-year-old Soviet actress who defected to the United States said she hopes the freedoms of her adopted country will enable her to realize her dream of becoming an actress in America.

"It's very beautiful in the Soviet Union, but I must stay here. I must have this opportunity to live my dream," **Larisa Firsova**, of the Central Children's Theatre of Moscow, told a news conference.

Speaking in broken English, and at times through an interpreter, Firsova described having thought for many years about leaving her homeland.

"It kind of happened unexpectedly," Firsova said of her Monday defection.

She and several dozen Soviet actors performed this week as part of an exchange with the Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis. Firsova left the group shortly before it was to return to the Soviet Union.

A Minnesota family is hosting Firsova, who hopes to remain in the United States and look for work. She said she is impressed with the friendliness of Americans.



Firsova talks at a news conference. (Reuter wirephoto)

Comaneci shopping

POMPANO BEACH, Florida, Dec 15, (AP): Romanian gymnast **Nadia Comaneci** plopped down nearly \$20,000 in traveller's cheques on a Camaro convertible and shopped her way through clothing stores this week, sales clerks said.

Escorted by **Constantin Panait**, the married roofer who has accompanied the Olympic gold-medallist since she fled Romania, Ms Comaneci was staying in a \$130-a-night suite at a resort hotel through Wednesday.

Thomas Martin, a salesman at Marconi Chevrolet, said he sold Ms Comaneci the Camaro, a black convertible automatic with grey bucket seats.

"She fell in love with it," he said. "In her country, all they have is stick shifts."

Dealership manager **Ken Pataki** said Ms Comaneci whipped out a wad of traveller's cheques to close the deal.

Actress in coma

Near clinical death

MADRID, Dec 15, (AP): Italian actress **Silvana Mangano** was in a deep coma and near death after surgery for a tumour in a Madrid hospital, a doctor said yesterday.

The 59-year-old actress who gained world-wide fame for her 1940s and 1950s neo-realist Italian films, entered the hospital Monday, when she underwent surgery for a growth between her two lungs, said **Dr Antonio Aguado** of *Luz Hospital*.

He told reporters "there is no hope that her condition will improve," saying she was "near clinical death."

The doctor, who did not say how long she had been in coma, said the growth had left Mangano unable to digest food, a condition that forced doctors to perform surgery.

Neither doctors nor family

members said whether the growth was cancerous, what caused her to slip into a coma or why she had surgery in Madrid.

Mangano first gained fame in her role as a sensual, provocative country girl in the 1949 Italian film "Riso Amaro (Bitter Rice)"

Italian film director **Giuseppe de Santis** cast her in the part after she had won the Miss Rome beauty contest and began playing supporting roles in post World War II films.

The next year she married the film's producer, **Dino de Laurentiis**. They separated in 1983.

Spanish national radio reported that the couple's three daughters were in Madrid.

In her most recent work she played alongside Italian actor **Marcello Mastroianni** in the film "Dark Eyes."

Available Now

A wide collection of the latest Indian

Darbaat for 1990

Don't miss the chance..

An invitation to all wholesale dealers to contact the G.N. Company representative to have a look

at the latest models

the quantity is limited

wholesale and retail services available

contact Tel: 2443120-2423222



LANCEL

PARIS



Exclusively sold at:

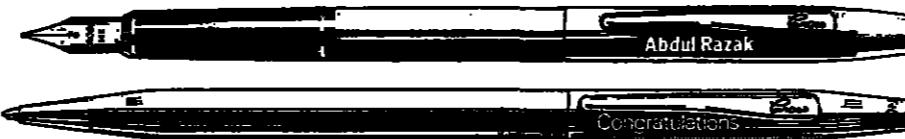
تاج
taragra

Kuwait International Hotel

Who Wouldn't Like to Receive a Gift?

CROSS

The Perfect Gift.



Make your gift even more special with free engraving of a message or name.

Elegantly gift boxed, CROSS is available in 10, 14 and 18 karat gold-filled, gray, classic black and lustrous chrome.

FREE ENGRAVING

During December 1989

For further information, contact:
Jashanmal & Partners Ltd.
Kuwait: Fahed Al Salem Street, Tel: 2432420/242071/72
Salmiya: Salem Al Mubarak Street, Tel: 5721865
Ahmed: Al Ghurabali Store, Tel: 3981929.
Also available at all authorized Cross dealers.

CROSS
SINCE 1846

Lifetime Mechanical Guarantee

Finally a digital VHS to make video viewing more exciting.



سانيو SANYO

OUR SHOWROOMS
ARE OPEN ON FRIDAYS

General Agent: SUPPLYING STORE CO. W.L.L., Showrooms: Abdulla Saleri St. 2423421, Fahed Al Salem St. Tel: 2428849
Al Muthanna Electronic Center Tel: 2435642, Salmiya Tel: 5716095, Fahadah Tel: 2922771/72

Casolo in US, denies charges

THOMASTON, Connecticut, Dec 15, (AP): Jennifer Casolo received a hero's welcome and proclaimed she was innocent of hiding munitions in her yard in El Salvador as she greeted 350 residents who turned out in freezing cold to cheer her return.

Casolo, who said she maintained neutrality while giving visiting Americans tours of El Salvador during four years there, said last night she will speak out against US aid to the Salvadoran government now that she has been expelled.

Casolo arrived in Miami on Wednesday, then flew yesterday to New York, where she fielded questions from reporters at Laguardia airport before being driven the 75 miles (120 kilometres) to Thomaston in a Cadillac with Sen. Christopher Dodd, who had lobbied for her release from a Salvadoran prison.

Casolo embraced her father, John Casolo, and met close friends and relatives, including her brother, John, who were waiting for her in the town hall of the town of 7,000 people.

Jennifer Casolo, standing on a flatbed truck draped in red, white and blue bunting, wished the crowd "Feliz Navidad," Spanish for Merry Christmas.

She left El Salvador on Wednesday after a judge dropped terrorism charges against her for lack of evidence and ordered her deported.

Casolo, who worked in El Salvador for the Christian Educational Seminars since 1985, was arrested on Nov 26 after authorities raided her house and found dynamite, grenades and more than 20,000 rounds of ammunition buried in the garden.

She said her tribulations were minor compared to those of the Salvadoran people, 70,000 of whom have died in a 10-year-old civil war. But the disrespect with which US authorities dealt with her case demonstrated their cynicism toward El Salvador's people, she said.

Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said he was convinced of her guilt, despite her release. Asked about that last night, Casolo said simply, "I'm innocent."

Police yesterday raided the home of Salvador Ibarra, the lawyer who defended Casolo, arresting the lawyer's sister and two other people.

The United States criticised Salvadoran rebels for rejecting a peace proposal by Central American presidents, calling the decision a "tragic, missed opportunity" to end the bloodshed.



Casolo talks to the press on her arrival in New York. (Reuter wirephoto)

Carter to probe campaign riots

Nicaragua polls

MANAGUA, Dec 15, (AP): Former president Jimmy Carter said he will investigate a political campaign battle between opponents and supporters of the leftist Sandinista government that left one person dead and more than 20 injured.

"We hope to determine the causes of this violence," he told reporters shortly after his arrival.

Carter was leading a delegation of observers invited by both the government and the opposition to monitor the process leading up to national elections Feb 25.

Sandinistas and leaders of the National Opposition Union have been accusing each other of inciting the Dec 10 riot in Masatepe, a town 30 miles south of Managua. In addition to the death and injuries, a Sandinista campaign office and a private home were looted and two vehicles were burned.

It was the worst outbreak of violence in the two-month-old election campaign for president, vice-president, a new legislature and municipal authorities nation-wide.

WASHINGTON, Dec 15, (AP): Marijuana is no more harmful than alcohol, says National Drug Control Policy director William J. Bennett, but he still strongly opposes efforts to legalise it or any other drug.

"The last thing I would want to do is recommend the wider use of a drug that makes young people stupid," Bennett said in an interview last week as he launched yet another counter-offensive against the increasingly visible and volatile drug legal-

isation movement.

Meanwhile, a US judge who for the first time joined the ranks of drug legalisation advocates repeated his comments yesterday.

US district Judge Robert W. Sweet — a Republican and former prosecutor appointed by then-president Jimmy Carter as a trial judge in the southern district of New York — had said in a speech that drugs, including cocaine and heroin, should be legalised, taxed and dispensed.

The CBS report said Pentagon officials said a hostage rescue team was among the units to be used to capture drug criminals abroad who are wanted on US charges.

A Pentagon spokesman would not comment on the report.

The network said it was not known whether President George Bush himself had given the go-ahead, but said Defense Secretary Dick Cheney late last summer had begun preparing an attempt to seize a suspected Colombian cocaine kingpin in Panama.

CBS said an informant had reported suspect Pablo Escobar was hiding out at a seaside villa in Panama and Cheney ordered troops and helicopters moved to a US base in Puerto Rico in preparation for an attempt to seize him, despite warnings that American soldiers could be killed in such an effort.

The operation was scrubbed, the network said, because the tip was given only a 70 per cent chance of being accurate. It later turned out that Escobar was not even in Panama, CBS said.

US officials say it would not violate a ban against assassinations if a suspect were killed in an operation to seize him, the network said.

It reported Pentagon officials as saying that in connection with the Escobar operation they were prepared to consult Congress under the War Powers Act, which requires notification whenever US forces go into a combat situation.

Despite concerns about security, US President George Bush is planning to go to violence-torn Colombia on Feb 15 for a four-nation summit on illegal drugs, the White House said.

The meeting, expected to last one day, will be in Cartagena on Colombia's north coast.

The region is infamous as a haven for cocaine druglords, who are waging a campaign of violence in retaliation for a crackdown by the government of President Virgilio Barco.

Other participants, in addition to Bush and Barco, will be President Alan Garcia of Peru and President Jaime Paz Zamora of Bolivia.

On Monday, Bush had expressed determination to attend the summit but said a final decision was still pending and, "I will not do anything imprudent."

President George Bush, declaring this country bears a heavy responsibility in combating "entrenched and powerful" international drug lords, signed legislation on Wednesday that includes \$125 million in assistance for Colombia, Peru and Bolivia.

In addition to the aid for the Andean nations, requested by Bush in August to buttress the efforts particularly of Colombia President Virgilio Barco in his escalating war against narco-terrorists, the bill also authorises up to \$115 million for global anti-drug efforts for other countries.

The US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has offered to train Soviet KGB secret police to catch drug traffickers, a DEA spokesman said.

"The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it will be the first formal relationship between a US agency and the KGB, whose past duties have included spying on the United States, crushing internal dissent and investigating international criminals.

The training would have to do with law enforcement," spokesman Frank Shultz told Reuters.

If Moscow accepts it

INTERNATIONAL

UK censors movie on nun

Termed blasphemous

LONDON, Dec. 14 (AP): The makers of "Visions of Ecstasy," a 20-minute video about the erotic fantasies of a 16th century Spanish nun, say they have lost their appeal against a ruling that the film can't be released because it is blasphemous.

Axel Ltd., the producers, said yesterday the video appeal committee had upheld the initial ruling by the British board of film classification that the film can't be released for public viewing.

It is the first film in 77 years refused a release certificate on grounds it violates Britain's little-used blasphemy law.

The law bans films, books and other matter held to blaspheme against Christianity but does not cover blasphemy against any other religion. It dates from the time Britain was a predominantly Christian nation before the influx of Muslim and other immigrants from Asia and elsewhere in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

The law originated when church and state were deemed indivisible and an attack on Christianity was regarded as subversive. It came under secular court jurisdiction in 1676.

Sections of the Church of England have called for the law to be scrapped on grounds it is out of date and that Christianity is strong enough to defend itself.

But some militants in other religions, including Muslims angered by the publication last year of Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses," which they hold blasphemes Islam, want the law extended to cover their faiths.

Call for wider passageways

Plane emergencies

LONDON, Dec. 15 (AP): The Civil Aviation Authority has called for wider emergency passageways to make it easier for passengers to escape in emergencies.

The recommendation came as the CAA released the results of a two-year research programme commissioned after 55 people died in a British Airtours 737 that burst into flames at Manchester airport in 1985.

The authority proposed a new European requirement to widen passageways through aircraft to a new minimum of 30 inches (76 cms), compared with the present 20-inch (51 cms) international minimum.

A spokesman for British Airways, which operated British Airtours charters, said the current standard width of passageways on the airline's 737s was 22 inches (56 cms) though new 737s had 27-inch (69 cms) passageways.

He said the CAA recommendations would be subjected to further research and discussion within the industry.

The research, carried out by the applied psychology unit of the Cranfield Institute of Technology in Bedfordshire, found that the tendency for people to block each other in the passageway through a bulkhead could be significantly reduced when the opening was 30 inches (76 cms) or more.

During the Manchester disaster, some passengers sitting close to the over-wing exit died, while others managed to make their way through the entire length of the aircraft from seats at the back to escape through front exits. The pattern was repeated in the tests, the CAA said.



Lula speaks Dec 13 during a campaign rally for elections. (Reuter wirephoto)



Collor de Mello awaits beginning of the last debate. (Reuter wirephoto)



A supporter of Lula raises his daughter during a rally. (Reuter wirephoto)



Lula supporters dance in the streets during the political rally. (Reuter wirephoto)

Brazilian candidates take potshots at each other

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, Dec. 15 (AP): In a nationwide TV debate marred by personal insults and accusations, presidential candidates Luis Inacio "Lula" da Silva and Fernando Collor de Mello clashed on issues from foreign debt to urban reform.

Da Silva promised to suspend payments on Brazil's debt, the Third World's largest. His pro-business opponent favoured cuts in state spending and privatising several state-run companies to

address the economic crisis.

Last night's debate was the candidate's last encounter before Brazil's runoff presidential election on Sunday.

Commentators labelled the two-and-a-half hour encounter a draw.

The debate, considered a crucial test because both candidates are virtually deadlocked in nationwide polls, was dominated by the type of personal barbs that have marred the final week of the campaign.

Collor de Mello called his stocky, bearded rival "intolerant" and "backward." He said Da Silva's radical Workers Party would prompt nationwide strikes, land invasions and economic chaos if the socialist was elected.

Lula, as Da Silva is known here, labelled Collor de Mello an "emotionally unstable" candidate. He tried to depict his adversary as a "member of the dominant, archaic upper class" and the new face of the political right.

An opinion poll published yesterday showed Collor de Mello clinging to a one percentage point lead over Lula. Just two weeks ago, Collor de Mello had a 15 point lead.

During the debate, both candidates ducked questions on how to deal with inflation, which economists say could reach 2,000 percent by mid-March, when the new president takes office. The cost of living was expected to rise 50 per cent in December alone.

TWIN CAM 24 VALVE

THE SUPERIOR CHOICE

FOR THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY

CROWN

Drive the high-powered luxury saloon today.

'90 NEW CROWN ROYAL SALOON SEDAN

Discover the supreme privileges of the new Crown Royal Saloon sedan. An exclusive world of dignified elegance, distinctive styling and sumptuous luxury. And for a real command performance, feel the majesty of its new technologically advanced 3000cc 24-valve engine. For more exhilarating power, smooth-riding comfort, high efficiency and immediate response.



MULTIVALEVE ENGINE

WARRANTY
2 years or
50,000 km.

Committed to quality, always.
TOYOTA

Bader Al Mulla & Brothers Co. W.L.L.

REQUIRE TECHNICIANS

1. Having 5 years' experience in any of the following fields:
Radio, T.V., Electronics, Telephones, Air-conditioning or any Electrical Machines.

2. Article 18 transferable residence.

3. Valid Kuwaiti driving licence.

For interview, please contact
Service Manager on Phone Nos. 2467428/
2445768/2423250/2423251



EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTORS
Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Est.

Al-Rai, 4th Ring Road, Tel: 4713622 (10 Lines)
Showrooms: Al-Rai Tel: 4714348, Al-Ahmadi Tel: 3985020.

Alarm over disks on Aids

LONDON, Dec 15. (AP): A computer disk on Aids that was mailed to people in Europe, Africa and the United States contains a "virus" that has sabotaged information in some personal computers, police and news reports said.

"We've received thousands of calls about these disks. We know that at least 10,000 have been sent out. We are not naming any recipients," said a Scotland Yard spokeswoman, who by custom was not identified.

"We are now treating it as a crime of criminal damage and blackmail," the spokeswoman added. She said an investigation had been opened.

Scotland Yard said that electronic codes on the floppy disks labelled "Aids information introductory diskette" have destroyed information in at least 10 computers in Britain.

The London newspaper the Independent reported yesterday that rumours in the computer world put the figure much higher and that hospital systems were among those damaged. It said the disks also turned up in the US state of California, Belgium and Zimbabwe but gave no details about precisely where.

Officials and news reports also reported the disks in Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

Computer viruses are pieces of software that reproduce themselves and spread from one machine to another through infected floppy disks, office networks or telephone lines. They erode a computer's processing power and storage space, or destroy information.

The Guardian newspaper said the disks' programme contains "A Trojan Horse computer virus" that attacks IBM personal computers. International Business Machines is one of the world's biggest makers of computers.

In Sweden, the state bacteriological laboratory sent letters to clinics and doctors working with Aids warning them about the disk.



End-of-term ceremony

South African youngsters dressed in academic robes and mortar board watch an end-of-term ceremony Dec 14 at a pre-school in the black township of Tsakane outside Johannesburg. (Reuter wirephoto)

French take control of Comoros Mercenaries leave

PARIS, Dec 15. (AP): French troops landed today at Moroni airport in the troubled Comoros Islands, taking control of the country's security in what the Defence Ministry called a "military assistance mission" requested by the Comoros government.

Four hours later, French mercenary Bob Denard and about 25 other European soldiers of fortune who trained and led the 600-man Comoros presidential guard boarded a South African military plane and left for South Africa, the French news agency Agence France-Presse reported.

The mercenaries had controlled the island nation, a former French colony, since the country's president was assassinated Nov 26.

A military spokesman said the French troops came from the French Indian Ocean Island of Mayotte, 300 kilometres (185 miles) away, in an operation under the French-Comoros defence co-operation agreement.

Yesterday, AFP reported that Denard was willing to relinquish control if the safety of his men was guaranteed and if he and his fellow mercenaries were given an unspecified payment. It was unclear today if those demands were honoured.

The Johannesburg Star newspaper reported that South African authorities planned to issue Denard a temporary residence permit on condition he agreed to leave that country within a month.

Both President Francois Mitterrand and Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement stressed earlier this week that there would be no French military intervention in the Comoros, in turmoil since the assassination of President Ahmed Abdallah Abderrahman.

AFP reported from Moroni, the capital of the Comoros, that 50 French paratroopers in helicopters landed at 9 am (0600 GMT) to take over control of the archipelago from the presidential guard. They were followed by two transport planes full of troops.

Denard and the presidential guard had been in control of the islands since the president's assassination.

AFP reported that as the first aircraft landed at Hahaya airport in Moroni, about 250 presidential guardmen stood at attention at one end of the runway. Denard also was at the airport, dressed in civilian clothes.

UN raps SA for its racist policies

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 15. (AP): The General Assembly, speaking with one voice, has unanimously condemned South Africa's apartheid system as "a crime against the conscience and dignity of mankind" and demanded its abolition.

In South Africa, Foreign Minister P. Botha issued a statement describing the UN declaration as "fundamentally flawed and unacceptable to the South African government."

The declaration represents a victory for black African nations, who for the first time in the UN's history reached a compromise with the United States and Britain on the subject of apartheid. The declaration was adopted by consensus yesterday.

The delegates then stood for a moment of silent meditation at the close of the three-day special session on apartheid.

"A declaration, however solemn and however unanimous, will not itself help the people of South Africa in their efforts to create a new and non-racial society," said the assembly's president, Joseph Garba of Nigeria.

"But it will lend tremendous power to our arguments henceforth when addressing proponents of apartheid, whether inside or outside South Africa." To win US and British support, the Africans diluted a statement proposed by the Organisation of African Unity, abandoning a demand for increased sanctions against South Africa and an interim government during the transition to a non-racial democracy.

Instead, the declaration raises the possibility of lifting trade embargoes if Pretoria begins repealing apartheid within six months.

The declaration pledges that the world community will "not relax existing measures aimed at encouraging the South African regime to eradicate apartheid, until there is clear evidence of profound and irreversible changes."

It then asks Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to report by July 1 on South Africa's progress in abolishing apartheid.

Delegates from 118 nations, including President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, castigated South Africa's racial segregation policies during three days of debate.

The Security Council has a mandatory arms embargo on South Africa, and the General Assembly has called on all nations to voluntarily isolate the country economically, socially and culturally.

The United States and Britain have always used their veto power in the Security Council to block more sweeping mandatory sanctions to isolate South Africa.

Anti-apartheid leaders freed

S. African court overturns verdict

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 15. (Agencies): Three prominent anti-apartheid leaders jailed since 1985 were ordered freed today by the country's high court, which overturned treason convictions imposed after a controversial three-year trial.

The three leaders of the United Democratic Front and one of their co-defendants, a church worker, were convicted of treason in November 1988. Their sentence ranged from 6 to 12 years.

The appeal court in Bloemfontein overturned the verdicts against those four black activists and seven co-defendants convicted of terrorism. One of the seven had received a five-year prison term and the others suspended sentences.

The appeal court accepted defence lawyers' arguments that the trial judge, Koos Van Dijkhorst, improperly dismissed one of the two legal experts assisting him in the trial.

During the trial, most of the defendants were granted bail. But Van Dijkhorst repeatedly denied bail requests by the three senior leaders of the UDF, a huge multi-racial coalition formed in 1983 to campaign militantly, but peacefully, for black political rights.

Van Dijkhorst had ruled that the UDF was a "revolutionary organisation" that incited violence in black townships in 1984 in a bid to render South Africa ungovernable.

The charges arose from violence and mob killings that broke out in black townships south of Johannesburg in September 1984, the start of two years of nation-wide black unrest in which more than 2,500 people were killed.

Patrick "Terror" Lekota, 41, the UDF's publicity secretary, was sentenced to 12 years in prison; Pope Molefe, 37, the UDF's national secretary, and Moses Chikane, 41, secretary of the Transvaal province branch, were sentenced to 19 years. The Rev. Tom Manthata, 49, a church field worker, was sentenced to six years.

The trial began in 1985 in the small farming town of Delmas and later was shifted to Pretoria. Eleven of the original 22 defendants were acquitted at various stages.

The four men convicted of treason were imprisoned on Robben Island, in Cape Town's harbour, where many political and security prisoners have been held. Friends and relatives gathered at a ferry dock in Cape Town today awaiting their arrival.

All four men were married and have children. Lekota and Chikane each have daughters who were born after they were jailed in 1985 and who have never seen their fathers as free men.

The trial was one of the longest in South African history, with 439 days of court proceedings spread over more than three years. The 368-page indictment named more than 900 alleged co-conspirators, ranging from Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu to African National Congress leader Oliver Tambo. There were more than 220 witnesses and the office court record ran to about 30,000.

■ Jailed black leader Nelson Mandela, fresh from a surprise meeting with President F. W. de Klerk, resumes talks with South Africa's black opposition next week, it was disclosed yesterday.

News of the scheduled meeting with trade union leaders broke amid speculation that his discussions with De Klerk on Wednesday was to discuss black participation in negotiating a new constitution.

De Klerk's meeting with Mandela was part of a government effort to drive a wedge between the jailed black leaders and his colleagues outside prison, Walter Sisulu said yesterday.

■ The magistrate, prosecutor and defence lawyer agreed yesterday that times are changing. The result: unusually lenient sentences for two black women convicted of aiding the outlawed African National Congress.

The women, both reporters for an anti-apartheid community newspaper, joined supporters in jubilant freedom songs after magistrate J. M. Lemmer gave them suspended five-year prison terms and let them go free.

Velmiswa Mhlawuli, 36, had pleaded guilty to accommodating four ANC members. Linda Tsotsi, 33, was convicted of receiving ANC military training in Angola and returning to South Africa to recruit for the guerrilla movement.

Chatichai has noted the lack of progress toward a settlement that simultaneously tackled all the major issues, including a halt to the fighting and the make-up of a future government.

He has suggested that the combatants first agree to a ceasefire and international verification of Vietnam's troop pullout before tackling other issues.

The Soviet Union arms forces of Cambodia's Vietnamese-installed government in its nearly 11-year-old war with three guerrilla groups backed by Thailand and China. The Thai spokesman said that in the meeting with Siddhi, Rogachev repeated Moscow's call for end-



Black death-row prisoner and former policeman Nofomela (center) shown consulting his lawyer during an appearance in Pietermaritzburg Court. (Reuter wirephoto)

Hit squad killings

Ex-cop tells all

PIETERMARITZBURG, South Africa, Dec 15. (Reuter): A black death-row prisoner, the first ex-policeman to allege the existence of South African police assassination squads, told a court yesterday he killed government opponents on orders from superiors.

Pleading guilty to the murder of human rights lawyer Griffiths Mxenge, Almond Nofomela said: "I was a member of the security police seconded to a police assassination squad under the command of Captain Dirk Coetsee and Brigadier Schoon."

"In late 1981, I was instructed by Brigadier Schoon to eliminate (kill) a certain Durban attorney Griffiths Mxenge," he told the packed court in this Natal provincial capital.

Nofomela and two friends were condemned to death in 1987 for the murder of a white farmer during a robbery. But just before he was due to be hanged he won a stay of execution by telling that he helped to kill Mxenge and eight others on police instructions.

Nofomela said he spoke out to save his life after police associates promised to halt his execution but failed to act. Coetsee backed his allegations in an interview with an anti-apartheid newspaper in which he said he commanded the death squad.

The other policeman mentioned by Nofomela is Willem Schoon, a senior officer who retired from the force earlier this year.

The allegations shocked the South African public and provoked widespread calls for a judicial inquiry into dozens of unsolved murders of opposition activists.

Human rights activists and government opponents have for years feared that police might be failing to find the killers because their colleagues were implicated.

Soviets back Thai solution

Cambodia conflict

BANGKOK, Dec 15. (AP): A Soviet foreign minister today endorsed Thailand's idea of addressing the Cambodian conflict in stages if a single comprehensive solution was not possible.

The four men convicted of treason were imprisoned on Robben Island, in Cape Town's harbour, where many political and security prisoners have been held. Friends and relatives gathered at a ferry dock in Cape Town today awaiting their arrival.

All four men were married and have children. Lekota and Chikane each have daughters who were born after they were jailed in 1985 and who have never seen their fathers as free men.

The trial was one of the longest in South African history, with 439 days of court proceedings spread over more than three years. The 368-page indictment named more than 900 alleged co-conspirators, ranging from Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu to African National Congress leader Oliver Tambo. There were more than 220 witnesses and the office court record ran to about 30,000.

■ Jailed black leader Nelson Mandela, fresh from a surprise meeting with President F. W. de Klerk, resumes talks with South Africa's black opposition next week, it was disclosed yesterday.

News of the scheduled meeting with trade union leaders broke amid speculation that his discussions with De Klerk on Wednesday was to discuss black participation in negotiating a new constitution.

De Klerk's meeting with Mandela was part of a government effort to drive a wedge between the jailed black leaders and his colleagues outside prison, Walter Sisulu said yesterday.

■ The magistrate, prosecutor and defence lawyer agreed yesterday that times are changing. The result: unusually lenient sentences for two black women convicted of aiding the outlawed African National Congress.

The women, both reporters for an anti-apartheid community newspaper, joined supporters in jubilant freedom songs after magistrate J. M. Lemmer gave them suspended five-year prison terms and let them go free.

Chatichai has noted the lack of progress toward a settlement that simultaneously tackled all the major issues, including a halt to the fighting and the make-up of a future government.

He has suggested that the combatants first agree to a ceasefire and international verification of Vietnam's troop pullout before tackling other issues.

The Soviet Union arms forces of Cambodia's Vietnamese-installed government in its nearly 11-year-old war with three guerrilla groups backed by Thailand and China. The Thai spokesman said that in the meeting with Siddhi, Rogachev repeated Moscow's call for end-

ing foreign military aid to both sides.

Rogachev told Siddhi the next round of peace talks, now being organised by Indonesia, should be held as soon as possible.

"Thailand wants the Cambodian war to end as soon as possible," the Thai spokesman quoted Siddhi as telling Rogachev.

Rogachev arrived in Thailand after discussing the Cambodian issue in visits to Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. He is to leave for Japan tomorrow.

Rogachev told a news conference yesterday that Australia's proposal for establishing an interim UN authority in Cambodia was timely and worth discussing.

Australian Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs Michael Costello was to discuss the idea with Chinese officials today. Costello already has met with officials in Bangkok, Hanoi and Phnom Penh.

Rogachev said both Vietnam and its allied government in Phnom Penh welcomed the proposal. He quoted Phnom Penh's Premier Hun Sen as saying the next round of peace talks should be held as soon as possible to discuss the Australian and other proposals.

Aids virus can remain undetected for three and a half years

BOSTON, Dec 15. (UPI): The Aids virus can hide in the body and evade easy detection longer than had been previously reported, researchers said yesterday.

A new study found it can take up to 3-1/2 years before the body begins producing antibodies to the Aids virus that can be detected by standard tests, such as those used to screen blood donors.

"Most people begin producing antibodies to the virus within 12 weeks of being infected. There have been previous reports of longer 'window periods.' But the new report tells of the longest such 'window' ever published in the medical literature said Dr Steven Wolinsky, the Northwestern University

researchers who led the study.

The findings underscore the importance of preventing people who are most likely to be infected from donating blood in order to minimise the chance of transmitting the virus through transfusions, the researchers said.

"You can't exclude the fact that a silent reservoir of HIV-infected persons exists," said Wolinsky, an assistant professor at Northwestern Medical School in Chicago.

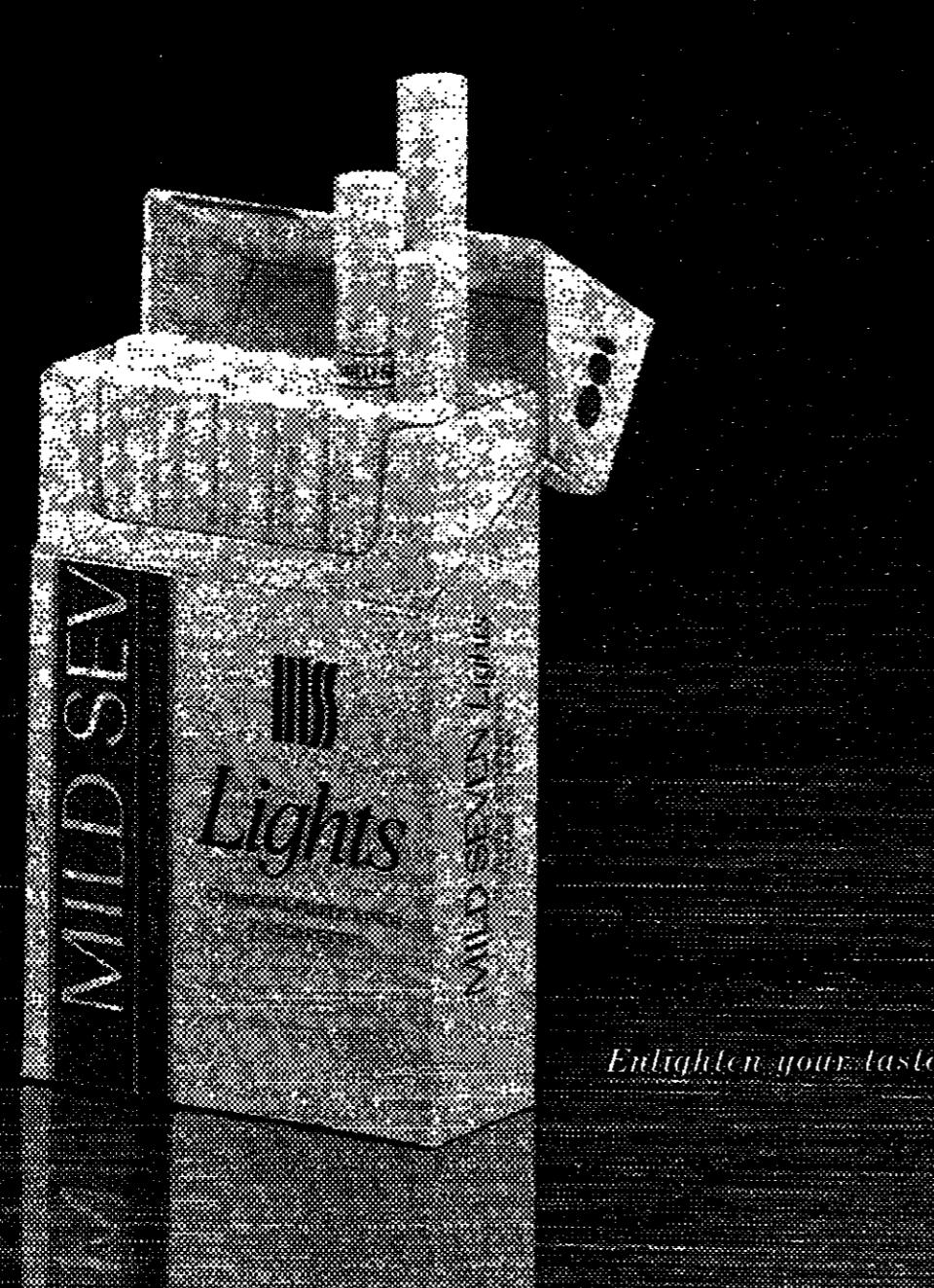
"This stresses the importance of self-defense by any person that has practised activities that have put him at high-risk for acquiring the virus," said Wolinsky, who published his findings in the annual

of Internal Medicine.

The study also raises the possibility that infected persons will engage in behaviour that can transmit the virus believing they are Aids-free because they test negative on standard tests.

Wolinsky stressed, however, that the study was based on homosexual men who were at high risk for being infected with the virus and may not be representative of the general population.

"Aids patients' blood contains hundreds of times more virus than doctors once thought, and a single Aids-tainted syringe may carry enough to cause 100 infections, according to a study published yesterday.



Government Warning : Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

JAPAN TOBACCO, INC.

Boat people stage third day of protest

Thatcher effigy burnt during march

HONG KONG, Dec 15, (Agencies): Thousands of Vietnamese facing repatriation against their will staged a third day of protest today, burning an effigy of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Meanwhile, the governor said no more boat people will be sent home before Christmas.

At least 11,000 boat people in five camps around this British colony participated today in the demonstrations, which have grown daily since the pre-dawn forced repatriation of 51 boat people Tuesday.

The protesters are among about 44,000 Vietnamese who have sailed into Hong Kong since June 1988 and are considered illegal "economic

migrants" unless they can prove they fled their communist homeland fearing persecution.

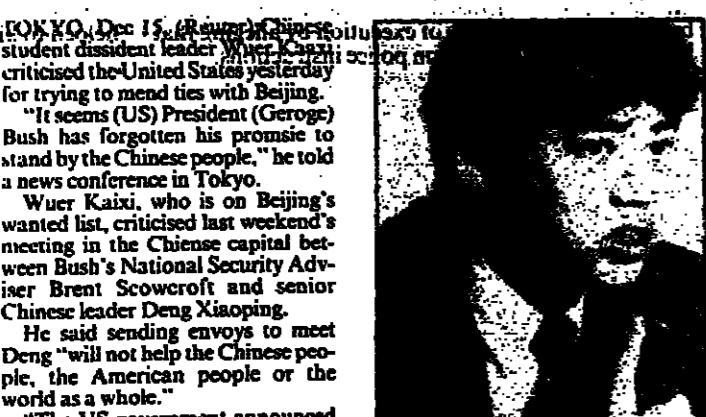
Nearly 6,800 have been denied refugee status after being screened by immigration officials and face repatriation. Slightly more than 700 have qualified for overseas resettlement.

Although the protests have been peaceful, about 100 Vietnamese late yesterday attacked a prison officer with iron bars as he investigated a crowd gathering inside the Chi Ma Wan camp. The officer suffered minor injuries.



Vietnamese boat people hold a peaceful demonstration inside the Sham Shui Po detention centre in Hong Kong. (Reuter wirephoto)

Wuer Kaixi raps overtures US slammed



Wuer Kaixi

Top-level Sino-US contacts criticised

WASHINGTON, Dec 15, (AP): Democratic congressmen have attacked President George Bush's decision to dispatch high-level officials to confer with the leaders of China, and pledged punitive sanctions against that country.

They also complained that the White House refused to permit one of those officials to come to Capitol Hill to defend the action.

Democratic legislators vowed to press early next year for punitive sanctions against the Chinese government and said they could prevail even if Bush vetoes the bill.

Absent from the hearing convened by two congressional foreign affairs subcommittees was Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence F. Eagleburger who visited Beijing last weekend with Brent Scowcroft, Bush's national security adviser.

"It seems the Bush administration is willing to send Mr Eagleburger six thousand miles to apologize to the Chinese leaders, but it was not willing to send him two miles to Capitol Hill to explain this action to Congress," said Congressman Sam Gejdenson.

Republican Congressman Jim Leach defended Bush, saying: "I don't know of a soul who believes that the Scowcroft mission went to Beijing to apologize to the Chinese."

He added that he believes the United States has an obligation to take whatever steps it can to persuade the Chinese to lift the "yoke of political oppression."

He added that the Scowcroft-Eagleburger mission can be seen as a test of the ability of outside parties to "help extricate a administration from an embarrassing corner."

As congressmen wrangled over the issue, Senate Majority leader George Mitchell weighed in on behalf of those who contend Bush made a serious blunder in sending Scowcroft and Eagleburger to Beijing.

Despite fierce public denunciations of Tibet's Dalai Lama, China is quietly pursuing efforts to hold its first talks with the exiled spiritual leader in more than 30 years, diplomats said today.

China has intensified its attacks since the 54-year-old Buddhist priest won the Nobel peace prize in October and has tightened security in Lhasa, the regional capital, which has been under martial law since anti-Chinese protests in March.

Tigers devour rivals: 250 die

COLOMBO, Dec 15, (UPI): Sporadic fighting continued in the eastern provincial capital of Batticaloa where Tiger rebels routed the Indian-recruited Tamil National Army, killing more than 250 TNA militiamen, witnesses and officials said yesterday.

Rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam conducted house-to-house searches for fleeing TNA militiamen and church bells sounded in the city as the death toll continued to mount following fierce battles that erupted on Wednesday.

Indian troops hastily recruited the TNA and planned to leave it in control of Tamil areas following the departure of the Indian peace keeping force. But the TNA lacks experience and was routed twice before the Tamil Tigers, who have fought 10 years against Sri Lankan and Indian forces.

Tiger rebels set up checkpoints yesterday and drove around town using loudspeakers to urge TNA militiamen to surrender. Residents hid in their homes. Stores opened for about an hour and were quickly shattered. Little traffic moved on the streets.

"The entire town area resembles one funeral house," a resident said by telephone from Batticaloa. "People are really scared to move around."

More than 250 TNA militiamen have been reported killed in the fighting, which began early Wednesday when Tiger rebels attacked the TNA camps. Fierce battles continued throughout Wednesday and the Tigers routed the militia.

The mortuary of Batticaloa hospital has 85 bodies from Wednesday's fighting and 42 more were still lying in downtown streets, a senior police official said. Other bodies were scattered around outlying areas of the city.

Police found 25 bodies of suspected Sinhalese radicals, burned or shot to death by vigilantes in central and southern Sri Lanka, military officials said today.

Most of the victims were Sinhalese men between the ages of 18 and 30, said the officials. They said the bodies were discovered during the 24-hour period ending at 8 am (0230 GMT) today.

Plans to limit legislative polls China dashes HK hopes

HONG KONG, Dec 15, (Agencies): China dashed Hong Kong hopes for widespread democracy after its handover to Beijing by declaring today that only one third of the post-1997 legislature will be returned by direct elections.

The Chinese-dominated committee responsible for drawing up Hong Kong's future constitution told reporters only 18 of the 60-member legislative council would be directly elected by 1997.

The 55-member team, reduced by two since Beijing expelled two Hong Kong legislators last month, was meeting in the southern China city of Canton, just across the border from the British colony.

YASHICA
Challenging the Future
YASHICA
KYOCERA

The Era of SAMURAI Expands

- Single AutoFocus mode • Continuous AutoFocus mode
- Macro - As Near As 80 cm • Backlight Compensation
- Daylight-Synchro Flash • Programmed Electronic Shutter
- On Demand Continuous Self-Timer • Multi-Exposure Photography
- Q-Frame Continuous Flash Mode • Slow-Shutter Synchro-Flash
- Quick-Charge Flash • Accessory Shoe
- SLR Viewfinder Without Parallax
- Easy-to-Read LCD Panel • Wide and Tele

Built-in 4X Zoom

Jashanmal & Partners Ltd.

Kuwait: Fahed Al-Salem St. Tel: 2432420, 2420071/72. Al Muthanna Electronic Center, Tel: 2426081.

Salmya: Salem Al Mubarak St., Tel: 5721865. Ahmad: Al Gharabally Store, Tel: 3981929. Also available at selected outlets

NEW MUTAWA AL KAZI CO. LTD. INVITES YOU TO THE HONDA SERVICE CENTER NO.1



FREE

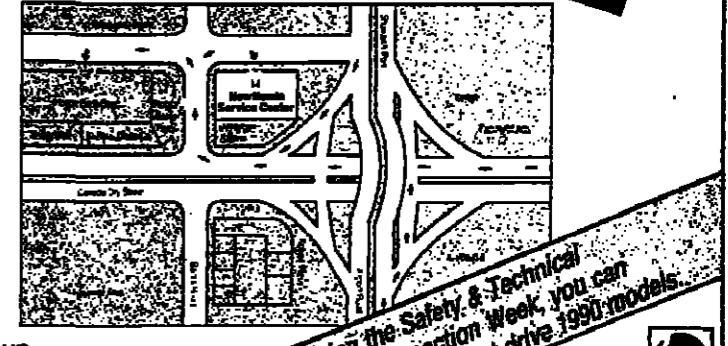
On this occasion, all Honda car owners are invited to participate in the "Safety & Technical Inspection Week" and are offered the following free services under the supervision of engineers and technicians from Honda, Japan:



- Engine check-up
- Gear check-up
- Electrical system check-up
- A/C check-up
- Brake check-up
- Change of oil & oil filter
- Suspension system check-up

Starting Sunday 17th Dec. to Thursday 21st Dec. From 8:00 am to 12:00 noon and from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

For reservation call: 4838470/1/2



During the Safety & Technical Inspection Week, you can test-drive 1990 models.



HARMONY BY S.T.DUPONT

س.ت. دیپونت
S.T. Dupont

Salmia Commercial Complex 243/B36/7 Kuwait



Brigadier General Rodolfo Biazon shouts orders to his men at Camp Aguinaldo during the height of the Dec 1 coup against Aquino government by rebel soldiers in Manila. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Situation is a bit explosive'

Sin criticises Cory

(Continued from Page 1)

rebels were planning a new strike in the central Visayas islands and Mindanao.

Canieso, a retired major general and former army commander, said 60 per cent of the 160,000-member armed forces would accept whatever government emerged victorious in a future coup.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos recommended restoring the death penalty as a deterrent against rebellion.

Ramos today asked the administration to seek congressional approval to increase the maximum penalty for rebellion from 12 years imprisonment to a future coup.

Capital punishment was abolished by the 1987 constitution but it allowed congress to restore it for "heinous crimes."

Aquino told businessmen the coup attempt shows the Philippines cannot return to "traditional modes of economic behaviour" that enrich only a small portion of the population.

Police in Manila went on full alert as new coup rumours swept this nervous capital despite government claims it has control of the situation.

Prices tumbled in early trading on the Manila stock exchange until the state social security system and other institutional investors intervened to prevent a possible collapse.

Traders attributed the panic selling to yesterday's grenade attack on an American housing and recreational compound. There were no injuries and minor

damage. But the incident raised fears of terrorism by remnants of military mutineers who tried to topple Aquino.

The exchange's composite index of 25 selected issues plunged 59.73 points to close at 1,002.81, down 5.62 per cent from yesterday's finish. Before the rally, exchange President Gerardo Urbano warned the market was "collapsing and it has lost its sanity."

Archbishop Jaime L. Sin called for stern punishment for mutineers but also criticised the Aquino administration.

"The perpetrators of the coup must definitely be hunted down and punished," Sin told a conference of Filipino ambassadors. "But beyond that, the presidency must be freed of every taint of nepotism. The fruits of economic recovery must be distributed more equitably."

The country appears quiet for the moment, Sin said, but warned it was "like the silence in the eye of a typhoon."

"Unsettling is the actual inefficiency in many branches of government," he said. "Unsettling are the unceasing reports of the undue influence of presidential relatives in official government policy. ... unsettling is the omnipresence still of so much poverty, so much suffering in our country."

Aquino alluded to criticism from Sin and others that her government has failed to uplift the majority of the 58 million Filipinos.

For your advertisement

Please contact
Advertising
Department

tel:
4816326
4816327

Since 500 yrs in this
**KADAYAN
PILIPINO'S !!!**

Now in Kuwait
Nature's touch product:
- Gugo herbal shampoo

w/gata, ginseng, aloe vera
— Tawas deodorant & soap

Philippine's best herbal protection

Available at:
1) AMBASSADOR STORES
2) JAMAL AL GHANIM SUPERMARKET
3) AL RASHED MARKET FAHANEEL
MOHD. GHAREEB TRAD. EST.

Tel: 5657937 - 5639691

World News Roundup

America

Advance in superconductivity: Bell Communications Research said Wednesday its researchers had built multi-layered superconducting materials that could some day be used for switches in extremely fast and sensitive electronic devices.

In the short run, the materials could be used as delicate detectors of magnetic fields in telecommunications systems, according to Bellcore, the research arm of the regional Bell telephone companies.

Eventually they could be used for high-speed switches in telecommunications systems or as computer logic gates, one of the key building blocks of computer circuits, Bellcore said. (AP)

Woman gets \$43.2 million: A woman from Nigeria whose husband and two daughters burned to death in a 1982 automobile fire won a \$43.2 million lawsuit judgement against Toyota Motor Sales USA Inc. and Toyota Corp., her attorney said Thursday.

A jury Wednesday awarded actual and punitive damages to Niki Adegbite, 36, who escaped with only minor burns and cuts from the 1982 Toyota Corolla station wagon when it caught fire after being rear-ended by another. The 11-year-old lasted six weeks.

Stan Pfeiffer, Mrs Adegbite's attorney said Thursday that the lawsuit claimed Toyota was negligent in its design of the station wagon and failed to recall it. (AP)

Nativity scene finds home: A Nativity scene sanctioned five years ago by the US Supreme Court has a new home, but neither religious nor civil liberties activists are happy with the location — a monkey house at the local zoo.

The ensemble of statues depicting the birth of Jesus became the centre of a national controversy in 1980, when the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit arguing that the city of Pawtucket violated the US constitution by erecting the Nativity scene on public property.

The ACLU, a private organisation dedicated to preserving individual freedoms, argued that the city was showing official support for Christianity and thereby violating the constitution's guarantee of freedom of religion.

The US Supreme Court ruled by a 5-4 vote in 1984 that the Nativity scene could be erected because it contained secular elements, such as Santa's reindeer, a wishing well and candy canes. (AP)

Nurse convicted of killings: A nurse dubbed the "angel of death" was convicted Thursday of killing four patients by injecting them with a powerful drug in a scheme to revive them and look like a hero.

A jury deliberated eight days before finding 27-year-old Richard Angelo guilty of murder in two deaths, manslaughter in one and criminally negligent homicide in the fourth. All four deaths occurred in 1987 at a hospital on Long Island, east of New York City.

Angelo also was convicted of assault in connection with the four deaths and on three counts of assault for giving injections to a patient who survived. He was acquitted of assault in connection with two other patients whose deaths could not conclusively be linked to injections. (AP)

Boy sentenced to life: A 14-year-old boy was sentenced to life imprisonment with no option of parole for twice raping an elderly woman when he was 13.

Joe Harris Sullivan showed no emotion when he was sentenced Tuesday, according to his attorney, Mack Plant.

"He is beyond help," circuit judge Nicholas Gecker said. "The juvenile system has been utterly incapable of doing anything with Sullivan."

Assistant state attorney Larry Kaden told the judge that regardless of the boy's age, he deserved the maximum sentence because of his long criminal history, including an assault on a mental health clinic counselor and a burglary during which he killed a dog. (AP)

Mauled to death by dogs: A man who complained to police that he was attacked by dogs has been mauled to death, apparently by the same animals, authorities said.

"He appeared to have been eaten alive. That's the only way to describe it," said Dill Delaney, a ranch caretaker who discovered the body.

Accidental
Distant star discovered

BALTIMORE, Dec 15 (AP): Astronomers have stumbled on the most distant known star in the Milky Way, and say the accidental discovery could help determine the total mass of the galaxy.

That includes mysterious invisible matter that astronomers know exists but are unable to identify, an astronomer with the Space Telescope Science Institute said in an interview.

"Astronomers suspect that there is a lot of additional material surrounding our galaxy that doesn't give off light," said Hoard Bond, who along with two others discovered the distant star last spring.

"We don't know the mass of the Milky Way, but if we can find objects that are far out and measure their speed, it will help us determine the galaxy's total mass — the visible areas and the dark areas."

Astronomers use the speed of stars to determine gravitational pull upon them, and, from its gravity, the mass of the galaxy.

Astronomers theorise the galaxy's dark matter could dim stars that are too faint to be seen, black hole remnants of massive stars that exploded early in the galaxy's history, some unknown type of subatomic particle. Bond said.

"We used to think that the majority of the mass of the Milky Way was stars, but now we suspect stars may only be 10 per cent of all the mass," he said. Once the mystery of the dark matter is solved, he said, "we may find something completely unexpected that could revolutionise our thinking about physics."

The discovery was carried out with a Beretta 22 pistol in the hills around Florence. The first took place in 1988 when an Italian married woman and her lover were shot dead in their car at midnight near a lonely cemetery. (AP)

Investigators fail to identify monster: Italian investigators probing the murders of eight couples in the past 20 years said on Thursday they had failed to identify the so-called "monster of Florence" and had dropped proceedings against five suspects.

"There is no evidence worth of the name to enable us to send anyone to trial ... the end of the formal inquiry leaves us all feeling bitter," Mario Rotella, the investigating magistrate in charge of the inquiry, told a news conference.

The murders were carried out with a Beretta 22 pistol in the hills around Florence. The first took place in 1988 when an Italian married woman and her lover were shot dead in their car at midnight near a lonely cemetery. (AP)

Jaguar to go ahead

Jaguar's 200 mph-plus X-J220, which is to go ahead with a limited production run of 220 cars, was announced Dec 14 in London. The new car will cost £366,850. Customers will have to put down a deposit of £50,000 by tomorrow, but will not have the car delivered until 1992.

Stars protest aid to Salvador

Actor Ed Asner is taken into custody on Dec 13 after refusing to move from an entrance of the downtown federal building. Asner along with Martin Sheen and 50 others were arrested during a demonstration protesting US aid to El Salvador. Right Sheen (second right)

turns to Father Kennedy as they lock arms to block the entrance of the building.

Sixty-five Austrian MPs sent an urgent appeal to US Congress Wednesday to stop Washington's military and other aid to the regime in El Salvador. Right Sheen (second right)



The MP's, more than one-third of the total in the first parliamentary chamber, spoke of atrocities by the El Salvador regime. They demanded "quick and determined action" to end the present bloodshed. (Reuters wirephoto)

the former president's seven years in office, ending in early 1988. (AP)

Koreans pray on college exam day: Hundreds of thousands of high school students took college entrance exams Friday while their families crowded temples and churches to pray for passing marks in a ritual that symbolises South Korea's drive for success.

At Seoul's Dongguk University, some parents who had driven to the school before dawn slept in cars. Hundreds kept vigil outside the main gates clustered in small groups, warming themselves by fires and drinking coffee and eating instant noodles sold by vendors.

Some knelt on cardboard boxes to pray. Others stood for hours grasping at the metal bars of the college gates. (AP)

Darker night for next year: South Korea's night life will be darker next year as theatres, beer halls, restaurants, cabarets and discos were ordered Friday to close before midnight.

Health Ministry officials said forces with the Ministry of Internal Affairs in issuing tough regulations intended to limit night spot business.

All night spots except those at tourist hotels, bus terminals and railway stations must shut down at midnight starting in January. (AP)

Victory talks a "miscalculation": The leading newspaper in communist North Korea said that talk of a victory for capitalism, based on recent events in Eastern Europe, is a miscalculation.

"It is the main trend of our age that capitalism perishes and socialism emerges victorious," said the Korean Workers Party newspaper Rodong Shinmun.

Parts of its commentary were broadcast by Pyongyang's Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo. (AP)

Laotian king died of old age: Laotian Prime Minister Kaysone Phomvihane said on Thursday that his country's former king, whose fate was unknown, died in 1982 at the age of old age.

It was the first official word on the cause of death of ex-king Savang Vatthana and the first time the prime minister of the communist country had spoken out about him.

Africa

Namibia independent in March: After 75 years of South African rule, Namibia will probably gain independence in March, the top UN official involved in the territory's transition to freedom said on Thursday.

Political parties in Namibia are making progress in drafting a constitution for the new nation, said Martti Ahissari, the secretary-general's special representative for the territory.

Ahissari has been supervising Namibia's moves toward independence as head of the UN Transition Assistance Group (Untag) since April. Untag's mission is due to expire at the end of March. (AP)

Vranitzky pleased: Chancellor Franz Vranitzky has said in a message to "Swapo" leader in Namibia Sam Nujoma he is pleased with the recent election victory of the "South West African People's Organisation."

To Nujoma, the probable first president of the new independent state, Vranitzky said "Swapo" had the confidence of the great majority of the Namibian people.

The chancellor said his own Austrian "Socialist Party" was confident that "Swapo" would "lead Namibia in the spirit of democratic principles, and in democratic agreement with those who were also elected to the constitution-giving assembly, as an independent and sovereign country at the side of the new nations of Africa."

In the same message, "Socialist Party" foreign affairs spokesman Peter Jankowitsch said his party would spare no effort to build up relations based on trust between Austria and Namibia. (Kuna)

Mozambique denies: The Mozambican government has denied claims by Renamo guerrillas that African presidents, attempting to mediate in the country's civil war, favour direct negotiations without preconditions, the state-run news agency Aim reported on Thursday.

A government source said claims made by Renamo chief Afonso Dhlakama that Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi and Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe favoured direct negotiations between the government and the right-wing rebels were false, Aim reported.

Latin America

Synonymous no more: During 60 years in power, the institutional revolutionary party's slogan — has been synonymous with the Mexican government. But no more, says President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

The PRI "is no longer the government party, but a party in the government," President Carlos Salinas de Gortari told party leaders.

The party still controls virtually every level of government, but the president insisted things have changed. He said "the difference is not only semantic, but also a basic one." (AP)

Haiti arrests ex-sergeant: A former army sergeant twice accused of plotting to overthrow the military government of President Prosper Avril was arrested after spending weeks in hiding, the Haitian Ministry of Information reported.

In a communiqué read over state-run television, the government said Patrick Beauchard was being held by military forces in the capital, but offered no other details.

The government last November named Beauchard as a ring-leader in an alleged plot to kill General Avril. It said the plot included at least eight former officers and three leaders of an opposition political coalition. (Reuter)

Asia

Chun apology called for: Radical students occupied two opposition party buildings Thursday calling for punishment of former president Chun Doo-Hwan and an open apology by the United States for the Korean military's bloody suppression of a civil uprising in 1980.

Shouting "down with (President) Roh Tae-Woo," about 80 students occupied headquarters of two main opposition parties, the Party for Peace and Democracy and the Reunification Democratic Party.

The students demanded that Chun and his associates be punished after fully accounting for corruption and power abuses that occurred during

the government's rule.

In a communiqué read over state-run television, the government said Patrick Beauchard was being held by military forces in the capital, but offered no other details.

The government last November named Beauchard as a ring-leader in an alleged plot to kill General Avril.

It said the plot included at least eight former officers and three leaders of an opposition political coalition. (Reuter)

Nato to open skies to East bloc flights

BRUSSELS, Dec 15. (AP): Nato foreign ministers today set out a common position for opening up their skies to overflights by Warsaw Pact nations as part of efforts to further reduce East-West military tensions.

The ministers wound up two days of talks at the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation by issuing their strategy for the so-called open skies plan, proposed last spring by US President George Bush.

They also welcomed an unprecedented visit next week by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to alliance headquarters.

Nato Secretary-General Manfred Woer-

ner told reporters he was looking forward to the meeting with Shevardnadze on Tuesday. He said he expected they would discuss "matters of common interest."

Britain's Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, described the visit as "a symbol of what's been happening" in East-West relations.

No time has been set for the meeting, which Nato officials said was initiated by the Soviet Union. Shevardnadze will be in Brussels on Monday and Tuesday to sign a new trade and economic co-operation agreement with the 12-nation European Economic Community.

Shevardnadze's trip will be the first by a Soviet foreign minister to Nato headquarters, one more in a series of unprecedented events that have taken place in the past several months in East-West relations.

Plans for his visit overshadowed the opening day of Nato talks during which US Secretary of State James Baker outlined plans for shaping a wider political role for the alliance in an era of reduced tensions.

In their final statement, the ministers welcomed the political and economic reforms underway in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and said "the progress achieved must be consolidated."

"Many problems remain," they said. "The rule of law and democratic government through free elections have yet to be fully institutionalised."

They also issued a word of caution about the Soviet Union's military might.

"We cannot ignore the military realities that our alliance continues to face and which lie at the heart of Europe's security problems," the officials said.

They gave their backing to the eventual reunification of East and West Germany, but through peaceful and democratic means. The language was identical to that included in a statement issued over the week-

end by leaders of the EEC at a summit in Strasbourg, France.

They reiterated the importance of Nato as an "indispensable foundation of stability, security and co-operation for the future of Europe."

There was no alternative, they said, to the alliance's strategy of deterrence to prevent war, based on a mix of conventional and nuclear weapons.

Moreover, they said the alliance must press for political change and work for a Europe that is no longer divided in its post-war halves.

On open skies, the ministers said the con-

cept "has a very special value."

"The willingness of a country to be overflown is, in itself, a highly significant political act in that it demonstrates its availability to openness," it said. "Aerial inspection also represents a particularly effective means of verification."

It also noted that aerial overflights serve as an effective means of verifying whether a country is abiding by arms control agreements.

The Nato position will be presented to eastern negotiators at a conference in February in Ottawa, Canada.

Global ban on chems likely

GENEVA, Dec 15. (UPI): A world-wide ban on chemical weapons is "highly possible" within one to two years. US disarmament negotiator Max Friedersdorf said yesterday.

At the conclusion of the latest round of bilateral talks with the Soviet Union, Friedersdorf said the two major powers now "are fairly close on most stages."

"I believe a chemical weapons convention, particularly with the emphasis President Bush has put on it, is highly possible within the next year or two," he said.

Another reason for recent progress, Friedersdorf said, was the "horrible fact of the use of chemical weapons on an extensive scale in the Iran-Iraq war."

The latest round lasted 16 days and Friedersdorf said the two sides agreed that before the end of this year they would exchange data on their respective stockpiles of chemical weapons.

Negotiators will then resume in February both within and parallel to the 40-nation Geneva disarmament conference which has had a chemical weapons ban on its agenda for the last 15 years.

Friedersdorf himself is leaving his post as US ambassador to the disarmament conference and is being succeeded by Stephen Ledogar, previously American delegate to the conventional arms talks in Vienna.

Problem

As always, Friedersdorf said in comments in the daily bulletins of the US diplomatic mission in Geneva, the main problem is resolved on chemical weapons that of verification of compliance.

"There is near universal acceptance of challenge inspection," he said, although "some people still have a problem with it," because of the intrusiveness involved.

Boosting chances of an early convention, however, was President Bush's recent proposal that the two major powers cut their chemical arms stockpiles by 80 per cent prior to a treaty, Friedersdorf said.

Friedersdorf said Gorbachev at Malta gave the proposals a favourable reaction without a commitment" while "indicating" interest in agreement on the 80 per cent cuts in time for the Washington summit next June.

Meanwhile, West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, in an interview published today, said that "closer ties between the two German states contribute to stability in Europe."

East Germans will have a chance to decide between a socialist or free-market system in elections planned next spring, and "we will respect" their decision, Genscher told the East Berlin newspaper *Der Morgan*.

"We remain a single nation," the West German foreign minister said. He envisaged the two German states growing together within a general process of overcoming the post-war division of Europe and a "demilitarisation of East-West relations."

On Thursday, the East Berlin leadership welcomed wide-ranging economic co-operation with West Germany, and earlier this week expressed interest in closer ties with the United States.

With the communist leadership crumbling since Oct 18 and pro-democracy movements taking hold, East Germany is making increasing attempts to open further to the outside world.

Late Thursday, the official news agency ADN said that East German envoy Peter Dietze had met with Helmut Kohl, the IMF's special representative for trade matters.

ADN called yesterday's session in Geneva the first contacts between the two sides. It said Dietze had expressed interest in the "economic, monetary, political and financial experience" of the IMF.

ADN did not say whether East Germany plans to seek a membership in the international organisation.

Slovenia demands federal action: Yugoslavia's tiny republic of Slovenia demanded on Thursday that federal action be taken against an economic blockade imposed by the biggest republic, Serbia, Tass news agency said.

The Yugoslav army, making its first comment on the embargo, condemned it as detrimental to reform.

"The blockade ... will not make Slovenia kneel," a statement by the Slovenian government said. "But it will harm not only Slovenia but all of Yugoslavia ... it should not be forgotten that Slovenia makes up one fifth to the financing of the federation." (Reuter)

Albanian leader rejects reforms: Albanian leader Ramiz Alia has rejected the reformist revolution sweeping East Europe, arguing there was nothing wrong with socialism, only with the countries that had adopted it.

Alia told trade union leaders in Tirana earlier this week the reforms in the Soviet bloc were being dictated by international capitalism for its own ends, the official ATA news agency reported.

"There are foreigners who ask: 'Will Albania experience such process as those occurring in Eastern Europe?' We answer in a clear cut and categorical way: No," he said. (Reuter)

Action against Poland ex-PM: A parliamentary commission has taken an unprecedented decision to impeach Polish Communist Party chief and former prime minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski for ordering the closure of the shipyard where Solidarity was born.

The official news agency PAP said the commission found Rakowski had issued the order in November 1988 under a summary procedure which was not based on sound financial grounds nor consulted with the cabinet and trade unions. (Reuter)

Sweeping Polish reform package: Poland's Solidarity-led government adopted a package of austere measures on Thursday intended to slash hyperinflation and create a Western-style market economy.

The official PAP news agency said the government accepted 20 enabling bills and resolutions to curb inflation, expected to reach 900 per cent by the end of the year, and transform the centrally-planned economy along capitalist lines.

The package proposes a tight cap on wages, which are expected to drop by a quarter in real terms in 1990, and strict financial rules for enterprises which may force many to go bankrupt and cause unemployment of up to 400,000. (Reuter)

Soviets slash 1990 military spending

Bid to free funds to help modernise economy

MOSCOW, Dec 15. (Reuter): The Soviet Union said today it would slash military spending by more than eight per cent next year as it shifts the armed forces from an offensive to a more defensive role.

Colonel General Nikolai Chervov told a news conference the budget would be cut by 8.2 per cent to 70.98 billion roubles (\$114 billion).

"The new political thinking in defence doctrines allowed the military to reduce the budget in practical terms," said Chervov, head of a department of the general staff.

It was the first time that the complete armed forces budget had been given to foreign journalists ahead of publication in the official Soviet

press.

Military spending this year amounted to 77.3 billion roubles \$129 billion, according to the first fully-disclosed figures for defence expenditure, released in June.

Chervov also gave the most detailed breakdown to date of the armed forces saying that as from January their strength will be 3,993,000.

The armed forces will be equipped with 4,045 missile launchers of all kinds, 10,000 missile warheads, 63,900 tanks, 8,207 combat aircraft and 157 major surface ships.

Czechs are in a hurry

PRAGUE, Dec 15. (AP): Czechoslovakia's opposition and communist leaders, racing against a constitutional deadline, were preparing for more sticky negotiations on selecting a new president.

Selecting someone to fill the vacant, symbolically important post has become a contentious issue in Czechoslovakia's transition from a hard-line communist country.

At a news conference last night, opposition spokesman Lubos Dobrovsky said roundtable negotiations would begin Friday, but he did not say when.

He added that those negotiating for the opposition Civic Forum, Communist Party, students and other political parties were exhausted after intense discussions that lasted until late Wednesday and had decided to take a night off.

The talks Wednesday night at first seemed to have produced agreement on how a new president would be named to replace hard-line communist leader Gustav Husak, who resigned last Sunday.

Under the constitution, Czechoslovakia's federal assembly has two weeks from the resignation to elect a new head of state and avoid a constitutional crisis.

The opposition, riding on a tidal wave of popularity for leading the pro-democracy revolution, wants Parliament to elect activist playwright Vaclav Havel.

Czechoslovakia will dismantle its Iron Curtain border with West Germany, shorten military service and end Communist Party influence over the army, its new defence minister said today.

Lieutenant General Miroslav Vacik told a news conference his ministry would recommend that barriers at the West German border be removed because they were no longer a military necessity.

Six people including top state security officers have been indicted for violently suppressing a pro-democracy rally that sparked mass political upheaval in Czechoslovakia, a parliamentary commission said yesterday.

In a separate development, a chief state prosecutor investigating possible charges against civilians, including top politicians, resigned.



Sofia bows

One-party rule to end

SOFIA, Dec 15. (Reuter): Bulgaria's communist leadership pledged today to end the party's monopoly on power within a month and agreed to begin round-table talks with the opposition next week.

Leading activist Konstantin Trenchev said Prime Minister Georgi Atanasov and Politburo member Andrei Lukanov met at lunch with opposition leaders including philosopher Zhelyu Zhelev, head of the Union of Democratic Forces opposition umbrella group.

Trenchev, leader of the unofficial union Podkrepa (support), told Reuters the two sides agreed to begin talks next week. He could not give an exact date.

Meanwhile, in the evening thousands of people took to the streets of Sofia for the second day running. But the crowd, which had intended to join a pro-democracy rally outside parliament, split into groups around the city centre.

The declaration, made early this morning, was aimed at heading off a repetition of protests the previous evening, when some 40,000 jeering Bulgarians throned outside parliament to demand the immediate repeal of the constitutional clause enshrining the party's leading right to rule at its next session in January.

Parliament ... values this as an important step on the way to solidifying political pluralism and the development of a democratic state," the unanimous declaration said.

The declaration, made early this morning, was aimed at heading off a repetition of protests the previous evening, when some 40,000 jeering Bulgarians throned outside parliament to demand the immediate repeal of the constitutional clause enshrining the party's leading right to rule at its next session in January.

Some 2,000 jeering demonstrators marched to state television headquarters to protest that coverage of a rally outside parliament yesterday had

presented the crowd as extremists.

"We are not extremists, we are the people," they shouted.

They dispersed after television spokesman Filip Bokov promised to broadcast coverage of their protest and to comment on it personally later in the evening.

Parliament, shaken by a mass show of public impatience as it met last night, passed a declaration promising to scrap the communist party's constitutional right to rule at its next session in January.

An unofficial army protest group was formed last month to protest against poor living conditions, long hours and low wages. There have also been protests over lack of housing for retired officers and their families.

Bokov said the army was now building more houses for officers on pensions.

The declaration, made early this morning, was aimed at heading off a repetition of protests the previous evening, when some 40,000 jeering Bulgarians throned outside parliament to demand the immediate repeal of the constitutional clause enshrining the party's leading right to rule at its next session in January.

The declaration, made early this morning, was aimed at heading off a repetition of protests the previous evening, when some 40,000 jeering Bulgarians throned outside parliament to demand the immediate repeal of the constitutional clause enshrining the party's leading right to rule at its next session in January.

The survey questioned 1,000 people in all 12 EEC states between Oct 16 and Nov 22 on a range of issues affecting the EEC.

The question about reunification was added to the survey around Nov 9, the day East Germany opened its borders to halt the flow of thousands of East Germans fleeing to the West via Czechoslovakia.

The survey questioned West Germans about reunification in light of their membership in Nato and the EEC.

EEC nations support reunification of Germanys: poll

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Dec 15. (AP): A recent opinion poll, taken in all 12 European Economic Community nations and published yesterday, has found overwhelming support for a reunification of the two Germanys across the EEC.

Seventy-eight per cent of EEC nations favour reunification and 12 per cent oppose it, according to a Eurobarometer poll whose results were released by the EEC executive commission.

The poll found 78 per cent of West Germans favour reunification. But West German enthusiasm for reunification

dropped sharply if it is at the expense of West German membership in the Nato alliance and the EEC, the survey found.

It found reunification is backed by 80 per cent of the French and the Italians, 81 per cent of the Irish, 83 per cent of the Greeks and Portuguese, and 84 per cent of the Spanish.

Elsewhere in the EEC support for reunification was as follows: Denmark, 55 per cent; Luxembourg, 63 per cent; Belgium and Great Britain, both 71 per cent, and the Netherlands 76 per cent, the poll found.



Recruit trial continues

Ezoe denies bribery

TOKYO, Dec 15. (AP): Hiromasa Ezoe, whose company is at the centre of a scandal that brought down government and tarnished the Japanese establishment, denied today that he had bribed politicians and public officials.

Also denying bribery charges today were Toshiro Ono, an executive of Recruit Co., the information conglomerate Ezoe founded, and two politicians: Takeshi Fujimura, a former cabinet minister, and Katsuya Ikeda of the opposition Komeito (clean government) party.

Ezoe, 53, told judge Tadatsugu Watanabe he accepted the prosecution's allegations that he received large donations from the company.

If convicted, the defendants could be sentenced to five years in prison.

The trial is the last of five, which began Nov 22 in Tokyo district court and will last for months as the legal system delves into allegations of corruption in the cozy relations between Japanese government

and business.

The Recruit scandal began in the summer of 1988 and brought down Prime Minister Noboru Takeshi, who resigned last spring after acknowledging he received large donations from the company.

Other key figures in the governing Liberal Democratic Party have been sidelined by the scandal and the honesty of ranking bureaucrats has been questioned because of gifts they accepted from

Ezoe. 53, told judge Tadatsugu Watanabe he accepted the prosecution

Teachers' status discussed at symposium

Private companies clean 176 schools

THE sufferings of teachers in their respective professions was the topic of a symposium organised by the Cultural Activity and Research Committee at Kuwait Teachers' Society.

One of the speakers said that this problem in Kuwait is two-dimensional. The first is represented in the official opinion which has failed to detect that the shortcomings in the teaching profession is a vital issue and is growing to take on dangerous proportions. The second view is held by officials who still believe that teachers are being pampered with high allowances, salaries and other advantages represented in the form of shorter working

hours, extra holidays and other perks.

The symposium called for taking early cognisance of the realities of the issues.

Participants at the symposium included Mohammed Al Misalem, from the Education College at Kuwait University, Abdul Razzaq Al Misafi, headmaster of Bayan Secondary School and the symposium supervisor, Dr Mohammed Farah from the Fundamental Education College.

Services

Meanwhile Jaffer Hamza Al Salman, director of Public Services at Kuwait's Ministry of Education said that every effort is being made to provide the best services aimed at developing the education

process in the country.

He said that presently there were about 1,265 employees at the Education Ministry who have been provided with government accommodation. However, about 521 such employees had expressed a desire to leave such accommodation.

A total of 50 schools had been handed over to private companies to undertake cleaning services this year, Salman said. With this addition to the previous contracts awarded in the related field, the number of schools covered by this system awarded in the related field, the number of schools covered by this system amounted to 176 schools in addition to 185 centres.

The official said that ministry officials were holding periodical meetings with the catering companies to ensure that meals provided to kindergarten children and scholarship students were nutritious and of the highest standards.

The ministry pays special attention to "landscaping and greening process along-with gardens" of schools.

A total of 68 schools have been provided with an electronic telephone switchboard which does need the services of an operator, with another 29 schools selected to be provided with these services. The ministry intends to provide this system to all the government schools, Salman said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Royal rescue

KUWAIT, Dec 15, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah Tuesday tended a man who was injured in a car accident at the Sixth Ring road, a local daily said Thursday.

It added in a front-page exclusive that HH Sheikh Saad who was unscathed at the time rushed the injured man to Farwaniya Hospital and made sure that he received the proper treatment.

It indicated "this humanitarian gesture by HH was highly regarded by the hospital's staff and re-emphasised that every citizen, no matter what his position is, a servant of the people".

Not free

KUWAIT, Dec 16, (Kuna): An independent official in the ministry of Communications yesterday dismissed the latest statement circulated by the manufacturers that their fax service to the Mubarak-based Communications and Telecoms Communications Centres is provided free of charge between Kuwait and a number of Arab and friendly countries.

The source stressed that dispatch service is subjected to the tariff and each paper to be sent abroad costs between KD 1.250 and KD 3 but reception service for the public is offered free of charge.

The bureau fax section receives all messages and documents sent by fax and distributes them to the concerned individuals in 30 countries worldwide Kuwait without charge, said the source who urged facsimile users to write their addresses clearly and accurately on the papers.

Coloured paper is not preferred to be used for fax service and fullscap or A-4 size paper is the most appropriate type for such service, he said noting that fax service at the centre begins at 7.00 am and ends at midnight.

Achievements

KUWAIT, Dec 15, (Kuna): The Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Education Dr Ibrahim Al Khalifi said the recent council's meeting discussed a number of reports aimed at developing educational strategies in the country.

A report on students' achievements in the public education and the quality of educational system was discussed at the meeting so that the council acquaints itself with the output of the secondary stage.

Another report on preparation of teachers' training before and after service was also discussed at the meeting with special emphasis on the Kuwaiti educational realities and national needs.

Council members also reviewed means of developing secondary education in Kuwait and adoption of various types of secondary education, Dr Khalifi said.

Archaeologist

KUWAIT, Dec 15, (Kuna): Information Undersecretary Abdul Azz Jaafar yesterday met with the director of the French excavation expedition Dr Jan Francois Sal.

Sal acquainted Jaafar with discoveries made recently by the French team in the Qusair area in Failaka island which unearthed a church built in the 6th century. Jaafar requested photographs and preservation of the site of discovery.

The meeting was attended by assistant director-general of the Information Ministry's Archaeology and Museums Department Dr Fahd Al Wehebi.



Teacher training at PAAET

A regional workshop about new formulas in qualifying and training vocational teachers was opened in Kuwait last week. On its fifth day, director of vocational development centre at the Public Authority for Vocational Education Dr Ahmed Buzubr delivered a lecture on the use of computer as an educational means in training. Picture shows Dr Buzubr delivering his lecture.

MPW completes Kuwait sewage masterplan: Houti

Completion of the entire project is expected to encompass eight stages. The first stage has been completed and covered 12 areas in Kuwait and the second stage is now being prepared. These projects have been the result of serious and in-depth (several) studies conducted by the ministry, Houti said.

Additionally, Houti pointed out that many grand projects are planned to be executed during the 1990s — like the University's Project and Sibbiya Causeway. Projects that will be carried out for Kuwait University are aimed at expanding and developing the buildings of different faculties in Shuwaikh, Khaldiya, Keifan, Jahiyah and Udayiyah areas.

These projects will include buildings for faculty of engineering, faculty of administrative studies, medical sciences centre, building of administration and library, developing the buildings of faculty of arts and a multi-purpose building. The ministry will also carry out several car parking lots for students of the university, Houti said.

The minister pointed out that Sibbiya Causeway will link Kuwait City with Sibbiya City and will also complete roads projects that lead to Murgab area.

Additional projects on the way to be implemented are the new premises of the telecommunications centre with the tower, Diliyah Mishref Centre, building of the General Customs Authority, the institute of musical and theatrical studies as well as Central Safat Post Office, Houti said.

The minister added that the ministry has completed a study to renew and develop the sewage

treatment station in Ardhiya area to increase its capacity for treating 220,000 cubic metres instead of 100,000 cubic metres a day as at present. The station is designed to have units which will be capable of addressing the bad odours that have been the cause of complaints.

He went on to state that the ministry has completed a study to renew and develop the sewage

treatment station in Ardhiya area to increase its capacity for treating 220,000 cubic metres instead of 100,000 cubic metres a day as at present. The station is designed to have units which will be capable of addressing the bad odours that have been the cause of complaints.

The man, Khan Bad Shah Akhtar, was found guilty of smuggling a large quantity of heroin into the kingdom, the announcement said.

He was the fifth Pakistani in two months to be beheaded for same crime.

Beheading is a punishment for murderers under the Islamic Sharia or religious law by which Saudi Arabia rules. Thieves have their hands chopped off and adulterers are stoned.

In recent years, Islamic theologians prescribed beheading also for those convicted of "spreading corruption on the face of the earth," under which they placed drug smuggling and peddling.

Also speaking at the seminar, Dr Muzzed Al Haroun, undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education said that Dr Ali Al Shamian, minister of higher education had set up a special committee to develop the law of Kuwait University that was issued in 1966.

Studying the law issued in 1966 is now imperative as in its present frame, it is no longer adequate to cope with developments in the higher education field. However, he disclosed that the law will not be rushed as it is intended to be framed taking into consideration long-range benefits.

He said that Kuwait University is comprised of ten faculties. However, he commented that these are all unrelated. Each faculty has a special set of pre-conditions for granting admission to students and selecting its professional teaching staff. These faculties can be divided into separate universities — like the university for medical sciences and another for social sciences.

Also speaking at the seminar, Dr Muzzed Al Haroun, undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education said that Dr Ali Al Shamian, minister of higher education had set up a special committee to develop the law of Kuwait University that was issued in 1966.

Studying the law issued in 1966 is now imperative as in its present frame, it is no longer adequate to cope with developments in the higher education field. However, he disclosed that the law will not be rushed as it is intended to be framed taking into consideration long-range benefits.

In the past the bank gave loan receiver a two-year period

before he began to pay the first monthly payment. At the present time, the bank gives a period of only three months from the date of granting the loan to receive the first loan instalment.

Mohammed Daghash said that he had already completed building his house but, has yet to receive power supply. He raised several complaints to the National Housing Authority and the Ministry of Electricity

Independent anti-drug commission to be set up

THE Social Service Committee at the Supreme Planning Council held fifteen meetings during the second session of the council, discussed a number of topical issues and endorsed a series of decisions, according to an official source.

The issues discussed included the feasibility of setting up an independent commission to combat drugs and intoxicants in Kuwait, which would also undertake to analyse the underlying factors leading to the escalation of this problem. The commission will also propose the best possible measures to combat this problem.

The Secretariat General has been entrusted with the role of performing the study and a technical committee was formed with members from the ministries of Interior, Justice, Public Health and Finance, which had so far held a number of meetings to discuss the duties assigned to it regarding the establishment of an independent commission for this purpose.

The committee invited a number of senior government officials to attend its meetings and participate in the discussions which dealt comprehensively with ways to deal with the problem and submit recommendations for this purpose.

The committee discussed the need to enhance the role played by mosques in social reform and step up its active contribution to the efforts exerted on a nationwide scale to fight the disintegrating effects of the problem on the social set-up.

It also tackled the analytical results of the social studies conducted in this respect to learn of the social background and existing family problems that contributed to the rise and escalation of the problem, and ways to support research on how to counteract these effects.

Sabotage at Khairan resort

KUWAIT, Dec 15, (Kuna): Residents cars at the Khairan resort were sabotaged by unknown individuals overnight which greatly dismayed those who came to enjoy a relaxed weekend.

The incident, which took place shortly before dawn today, was relayed to the security forces for conducting necessary investigations, the resort general manager Adnan Zain Al Deen told Kuna over the telephone this morning.

He said that tyres of 15 cars were slashed and no longer usable and added that the one kilometre resort has parking areas for 2000 cars for its 200 chalets.

He noted that the incident was the first of its kind since the resort was opened.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

The court was told that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle moving in suspicious manner asked the driver to stop. However, the accused, rammed the police patrol car and tried to make an unsuccessful bid to escape.

He said that the accused was arrested after he tried to smuggle 480 bottles of liquor from Iraq into the country. A police patrol noticing the smuggler's vehicle

PLEASURE is very seldom where it is sought—Samuel Johnson, English scholar (1709-1784).

OPINION

Sheikh Issa is Bahrain

BAHRAIN'S National Day this time is the "festival" of Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Amir. The great deeds of this man and his special relation with his people elucidate this point.

Here is a unique case of unity between an Amir and his homeland and an Amir and his people. We can safely state that Bahrain and its people are Sheikh Issa and similarly Sheikh Issa is Bahrain and the people.

In this context, Sheikh Issa's personality manifests the unique Bahraini spirit and thus the National Day is the day of Sheikh Issa.

Under the rule of Sheikh Issa, Bahrain obtained independence, made great leaps towards modernisation and progress, enhanced its educational skills and the modern state is now run at all important levels by Bahrainis themselves.

Bahrain's National Day is not restricted for celebrations to the Bahraini people alone—it is a happy occasion for the peoples of this region too. The celebrations have become an occasion for renewing the strong ties between the people and their Amir.

The celebrations and happiness on this auspicious occasion are an integral part of the happiness of Sheikh Issa himself. The bond between Sheikh Issa and Bahrain and its people is very deep.

Whenever we think of Bahrain, we immediately have Sheikh Issa in mind and vice versa. Bahrain to Sheikh Issa is simply part of his heart and even more. This is reflected in his behaviour. He travels only for short periods, and that too on official assignments. He takes no leave as he does not like being away from his homeland.

This great dedication and love to Bahrain has made him greatly attached and bonded to the lives of his people. He receives them daily at his own open meeting and knows each of them and follows up their affairs. His behaviour is exactly like a father who follows the affairs of his children.

He has no personal bank account and all his money is spent for his people and all these qualities have consolidated the Bahraini unity. Though he has no special account, he has many more precious things—the love and affection of his people that he has gained by his special ways.

From his position as the Amir and father, Sheikh Issa greatly senses the needs of the people and their wishes and comes forward to meet these demands and fulfil these wishes. He cuts through red tape to solve his people's problems.

Sheikh Issa has indeed won himself a great esteem by uniting his people and treating all with equality and justice. Under his rule, Bahrain has been living its most happy, most prosperous and most blessed days.

Sheikh Issa at the helm of affairs is still giving ample examples to his people on the way to achieve more prosperity and progress and we extend our warmest greetings to this great man, the Amir of Bahrain, on his day, the National Day of Bahrain.

He has indeed won the real treasure—the love of his people and their loyalty. He has indeed taught us the most valuable lesson, wealth and treasure are nothing if we lose the love of the people.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Israel fears 1992 Europe

TEL AVIV, (Reuter): Like a rabbit transfixed by a snake, Israel is watching the European Economic Community's preparations to become a giant single market in 1992 with a mixture of fright and fascination.

The Jewish state, which won a prime market in the 12-nation bloc for its fruit, vegetables, flowers, chemicals and polished diamonds, fears being dwarfed or shut by a new fortress Europe.

Compounding these anxieties, Israel is finding EEC opposition to its continued occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip with their 1.75 million Palestinian residents a growing obstacle to closer economics, government officials say.

"The Israelis are pinning on 1992 anxieties that rightly belong elsewhere," said EEC ambassador to Israel Gwyn Morgan. "Relations between the European Economic Community and Israel cannot be separated from the political situation."

Israel's trade deficit with the community, its biggest trade partner, has soared since the 1970s. In 1988, it imported goods worth \$7 billion from the 12 EEC countries, while its exports to the bloc totalled \$3.5 billion.

Israel's exports were mainly farm produce, raw materials and semi-finished goods, while its imports were mainly vehicles, machinery and consumer goods.

Trade

"Our trade with the community is like trade between a colony and an imperial power in previous times," lamented Israel's ambassador to Brussels Avi Primor.

Israeli experts have warned the government and industry that the economy will have to become more open and efficient if it is to compete in a tougher European marketplace.

But Israel still has a strong protectionist lobby symbolised by right-wing Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, who says his job is to protect Israeli producers before promoting free trade.

"Israel tends to protect the manufacturer at the expense of the consumer. While Europe races towards 1992, Israel in certain areas is actually retreating at an alarming rate," warned Dan Gillerman, head of the Israel Chamber of Commerce.

Among the most ardent protectionists are some smaller industrialists, who fear European competition will wipe them out.

Uri Menashe, chairman of the Manufacturers Association, won applause from many businessmen at a seminar this week when he voiced the hope that 1992 might never happen.

He said Israeli firms would have to transfer production to EEC countries to survive, exporting expertise and employment.

"As matters now stand with inflation (at over 20 per cent per year) and fluctuations in the Israeli economy, it is not possible for us to blend into the European market," Menashe told the seminar at Tel Aviv University.

Some experts believe Israel, one of the first countries to establish relations with Brussels in 1959, stands to suffer commercially from closer EEC ties with Turkey, Cyprus and Malta as well as with the newly-liberalised East European states.

From scientist to dissident to free roving critic

Sakharov's life a great irony

MOSCOW, (AP): From national hero to shunned exile to popular lawmaker, Andrei Dmitrievich Sakharov's remarkable journey of conscience made him perhaps the world's most celebrated dissident.

His life was a great irony: the physicist who helped develop the Soviet hydrogen bomb went on to become his nation's greatest advocate of human rights and to push for steps to reduce the spectre of nuclear war.

Selfless, brave and determined, the stooped, dishevelled dean of Soviet dissent lived to see many of his dreams come true and his own people begin to acknowledge his greatness, as the rest of the world had done earlier.

But Sakharov, who died on Thursday at the age of 68 in Moscow, was never satisfied, saluting reforms while faulting their inadequacy. He constantly challenged even the man who turned many of his dreams into reality and set him free after nearly seven years in exile, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"I personally respect Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev very much, but it is dangerous to give so much power even to the initiator of perestroika," Sakharov boldly told the Soviet congress in June 1989 when it added the presidency to Gorbachev's job as Communist Party general secretary.

After returning to his home in Moscow from internal exile in 1986, Sakharov played a prominent role in the Soviet Union's turbulent politics and became an outspoken member of the new congress.

Although he called himself a supporter of perestroika, Gorbachev's programme of political and economic restructuring, he was among the leading critics of the slow pace of change.

Even in the final days of his life, he continued to stake out radical positions and push for an end to the Communist Party's monopoly on power.

The personal toll from his activism was enormous: the harsh years of exile in Gorky, an industrial city about 250 miles (400 kms) east of Moscow, significantly weakened his heart. He reportedly suffered a minor stroke during a hunger strike in 1981, and in recent years he tired easily.

Although he paid a high price for speaking out, Sakharov told the Soviet congress in June 1989 he had no regrets. "I am proud of this exile in Gorky like a medal I wear," he said in an emotional speech.

Sakharov's views were kept from the Soviet public for decades after he turned in the 1950s from being a top nuclear physicist into a dissident, or as he described himself, a "freethinker."

But as Gorbachev rehabilitated him and introduced glasnost, Sakharov appeared at officially sponsored news conference, was quoted frequently in the state-run press and appeared on Soviet television's broadcasts of congress proceedings.

Even though he was a poor speaker—with a slight stutter and high-pitched voice—the public had come to know, and like, Sakharov so much that an unsolicited poll by a Soviet newspaper in October 1989 indicated he was the most popular parliamentarian.

Sakharov won the 1975 Nobel peace prize, capturing a change in his views that began in the late 1950s when doubts about the nuclear weapons he helped develop brought him into conflict with Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev.

Challenging Soviet censorship, human rights and foreign policies, Sakharov and his second wife, Yelena Bonner, became the leading figures in a burgeoning Soviet dissident movement by the time she travelled to Oslo, Norway, to accept the Nobel award on his behalf.

Banned from going to Norway himself, Sakharov stated in his acceptance speech: "I am convinced that international trust, mutual understanding, disarmament and international security are inconceivable without an open society with freedom of information, freedom of conscience, the right to travel, and the right to travel and choose the country in which one wishes to live."

Banned from going to Norway himself, Sakharov stated in his acceptance speech: "I am convinced that international trust, mutual understanding, disarmament and international security are inconceivable without an open society with freedom of information, freedom of conscience, the right to travel, and the right to travel and choose the country in which one wishes to live."

The same year, Sakharov's first wife, Klavdia, died of cancer. Sakharov had become increasingly isolated from her and their three children, and further severed bonds with his son and daughters when he married Mrs Bonner, a Leningrad doctor, in 1969.

The couple was among the founding members of the unofficial Human Rights Committee set up in 1970. While other dissidents were jailed or exiled from the Soviet Union, Sakharov seemed protected by his still privileged status.

In the early 1960s, he defended nonconformist geneticists at the Academy of Sciences. He had his first major brush with top Soviet officials in 1961, when he appealed to Premier Nikita Khrushchev to stop nuclear weapons tests.

His 1968 text, which advocated Soviet-US detente and blamed Moscow for the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, provoked authorities into revoking his security clearance.

The same year, Sakharov's first wife, Klavdia, died of cancer. Sakharov had become increasingly isolated from her and their three children, and further severed bonds with his son and daughters when he married Mrs Bonner, a Leningrad doctor, in 1969.

The couple was among the founding members of the unofficial Human Rights Committee set up in 1970. While other dissidents were jailed or exiled from the Soviet Union, Sakharov seemed protected by his still privileged status.

In 1948, he was tapped to join the team headed by future Nobel laureate Igor Tamm, whose research group developed the first Soviet hydrogen bomb.

At first, Sakharov believed in his top secret work. Sakharov and his wife continued undaunted until Jan 22, 1980, when, after criticising the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan a month earlier, Sak-



Andrei Sakharov

equilibrium, and we were attracted by its score," he wrote later.

As a top scientist, he enjoyed such privileges as a nice apartment, a driver, high salary and government awards. He was inducted into the Academy of Sciences in 1953 at the age of 32, its youngest member ever.

But, by 1957, Sakharov questioning the wisdom of using top scientists and large funds to develop weapons of mass destruction.

In the early 1960s, he defended nonconformist geneticists at the Academy of Sciences. He had his first major brush with top Soviet officials in 1961, when he appealed to Premier Nikita Khrushchev to stop nuclear weapons tests.

His 1968 text, which advocated Soviet-US detente and blamed Moscow for the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, provoked authorities into revoking his security clearance.

The same year, Sakharov's first wife, Klavdia, died of cancer. Sakharov had become increasingly isolated from her and their three children, and further severed bonds with his son and daughters when he married Mrs Bonner, a Leningrad doctor, in 1969.

The couple was among the founding members of the unofficial Human Rights Committee set up in 1970. While other dissidents were jailed or exiled from the Soviet Union, Sakharov seemed protected by his still privileged status.

In 1948, he was tapped to join the team headed by future Nobel laureate Igor Tamm, whose research group developed the first Soviet hydrogen bomb.

At first, Sakharov believed in his top secret work. Sakharov and his wife continued undaunted until Jan 22, 1980, when, after criticising the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan a month earlier, Sak-

harov was stripped of all his awards and titles and exiled to the closed city of Gorky, where conditions were worse than in Moscow and foreigners were not allowed to visit.

Mrs Bonner voluntarily went with her husband, journeying to Moscow once a month for supplies and to relay statements from Sakharov to foreign correspondents and diplomats.

In November 1981, the couple launched a hunger strike to press demands for an exit visa for Lise Alexeyeva, wife of Mrs Bonner's son, Alexei Semenov. Semenov, Mrs Bonner's daughter Tatiana and Tatiana's husband, Efrem Yanklevich, had earlier emigrated to the United States.

Lise Alexeyeva's visa was granted after the couple was hospitalized and threatened with forced feeding. It was to be their last victory for a long time.

In 1983, Soviet press attacks on them escalated, with Mrs Bonner accused of instigating Sakharov's "anti-Soviet" acts. In May 1984, Sakharov announced a hunger strike to press demands for Mrs Bonner to go abroad temporarily for medical treatment, as she had done twice before.

This time, the fast did not work. Mrs Bonner was granted an exit visa to Gorky with her husband, who was thus completely cut off from Moscow and the West—although he was never charged with any crime or put on trial.

Western governments, scientific and human rights groups pressed the Soviets to release him.

In December 1986, a phone was suddenly installed in Sakharov's Gorky apartment, and Gorbachev called to say he could return to Moscow. Sakharov, suppressing his joy at the news to show his concern for others, told Gorbachev to free all political prisoners.

"I think what he said was stupid, morally atrocious and intellectually bankrupt. If he's tired of seeing drug cases come before him, he should consider some other career alternatives. That's just not a good enough excuse for him to condemn millions of American children to drugs and drug-infested neighbourhoods," — Congressman William Bennett castigating a federal judge for advocating drug legislation.

"To take a poison and make it available nationally and internationally would be to concede everything we stand for. Perhaps (Sweet) is a good judge but he hasn't studied the complicated problems of drug addiction throughout our nation," — Representative Charles Rangel slamming Judge Robert Sweet on his speech calling for drug legislation.

"Despite a number of positive economic changes, social tensions and dissatisfaction with the pace of perestroika are growing in the country. Some people want to speed up the pace of economic reforms," — Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhov on Soviet discontent with reforms in the Soviet Union.

"It was not a decision of the government of India. As a father, I must be thankful to them. As a politician, I feel the kidnappings should not have happened. By releasing a few kidnappers, it does not mean we strengthen the terrorists. Kidnapping a girl is a very easy thing. It was an act of cowardice," — Indian Home Minister Sayeed Mohamed on the release of prisoners in exchange for his kidnapped daughter's freedom.

"We are demonstrating in order to exert pressure on the Jordanian government to close down the American embassy because the United States policy is against the Palestinian people and against the establishment of a Palestinian state," — A demonstrator in Amman Wednesday evening in support of the intifada.

"Genuine structural reforms are urgently needed to end Africa's total dependence on foreign aid. We are talking about a whole continent surviving on an (intravenous) drip," — Joseph Ki-Zerbo, a history professor from Burkina Faso.

"I propose giving the government special powers for legal regulation of the following questions — restructuring the economy, property changes, de-monopolisation of the state and co-operative sector, the tax system, the accounting system, banking and changes of the state structure including local councils," — Lech Walesa on the Solidarity government in Poland.

"The monetarist approach of the World Bank and IMF programmes, their insensitivity to social, cultural and political realities in Africa as well as their adverse effect on the majority of the population, especially the poor and the vulnerable, have created widespread dissatisfaction," — Adebayo Adeajo, head of the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

"If we recognise Israel without simultaneously recognising the Palestine Liberation Organisation, that is, the Palestinian state, then the Arabs and Islamic countries will recognise the Turkish-Cypriot state," — Papandreu in a Nov 17 meeting with the Conservative and Communist Party leaders on an Arab official's warning.

Letters to the editor

Claim refuted

SIR: I have read various letters written by Keralites criticising United Malayalee Organisation's (UMO) recently conducted Bharat Mata celebrations.

Apart from that, may I ask the present office bearers of UMO about its claim to be a united form of all Malayalee organisations in Kuwait. I have learnt that a number of Malayalee organisations are existing in Kuwait, which are not part of UMO. I have also learnt that some Malayalee organisations applied for membership in UMO and the present office bearers namely the chairman and general-secretary rejected it just because their positions might be challenged if more numbers are taken in.

It is also learnt that the present chairman represents an organisation namely Kerala Muslim Association, which has two members—the chairman himself as president and his relative as its general-secretary. This particular organisation has no activities and is quite an unknown organisation for the Malayalee community in Kuwait. The general secretary of UMO represents another organisation namely KWAFR — (Kuwait Writers and Readers Forum). This organisation has only three members. It is really shameful that representatives of such organisations control UMO and claim that UMO is the organisation of all Malayalee living in Kuwait and I rightly affirm that it is not.

Varghese Thomas, Safat.

Apologize publicly

SIR: I have read several letters to the editor in the Arab Times regarding the dishonouring of Indian national anthem at a function held by the UMO.

There may be a difference of opinion among Indians, between Indian states, with states and New Delhi or the Indian rulers may change, but the spirit of being a citizen of a great nation remains.

Therefore, I like to ask the official of UMO the following questions:

1. Is it correct that Indian national anthem was sung in the form of a duet by UMO officials?

2. Did they sing this sacred song with full gusto?

Iraq completes Shatt bypass

BAGHDAD, Dec 15. (Reuters): Iraq announced it has dredged to a depth of 14 metres (46 feet) the Shatt Al Basra, a ship canal which bypasses the Shatt Al Arab on its disputed border with Iran.

The Shatt Al Arab is Iraq's main outlet to the sea and one of the roots of the 1980-88 Gulf war.

The 80-km (50-mile) Shatt Al Basra follows a shorter path from the town of Basra to the Gulf port of Umm Qasr, which is 50 km (30 miles) west of the Iranian border.

The official Iraqi News Agency said the

Basra canal has now been widened to 98 metres (300 feet) and deepened six metres (18 feet) to a depth of 14 metres.

A state-owned company shifted four million cubic metres (yards) of mud to enlarge the canal, it said.

INA said that in addition to its strategic importance dredging of the Shatt Al Basra would reduce floods in the marshes of southern Iraq, where the Tigris and Euphrates, the two great rivers of Mesopotamia, flow to the Gulf through the Shatt Al Arab.

Iraq has torn up a 1975 treaty under

which it shared the Shatt Al Arab with Iran.

In stalled post-war talks, Baghdad has insisted it must have full ownership of the border waterway and that clearing it of debris should be the first step towards a lasting peace.

Iraq yesterday rejected Iraqi demands that their border be redrawn as the price of peace.

The Iranian news agency Irna quoted Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati as saying there was no alternative to UN

Security Council Resolution 598 calling for the withdrawal of forces behind internationally-recognised frontiers.

"Iran ... should accept present common borders between the two countries and the water border in the Arvand river (Shatt Al Arab) ... within the framework of the 1975 accord," the agency quoted Velayati as saying.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz on Wednesday repeated Baghdad's repudiation of the 1975 treaty which divides the border river between Iran and Iraq.

Aoun's men out of army payroll

BEIRUT, Dec 15. (AP): President Elias Hrawi's government warned today it will stop paying troops loyal to rebellious Christian leader Gen. Michel Aoun in an apparent bid to break his grip on the Christian heartland.

A government statement said army payrolls would be handled by Gen. Emile Lahoud, who was appointed army commander to replace Aoun last month.

The statement said the Defense Ministry gave the five brigade commanders serving in the Christian enclave five days to submit monthly payrolls to Lahoud. Otherwise, the salaries will not be paid by the Central Bank.

There was no immediate reaction from Aoun to the decision which threatens to deprive some 20,000 mainly Christian soldiers of their salaries during the holiday season.

The Central Bank, located in Muslim West Beirut, is under Hrawi's authority.

Hrawi's government under Sunni Muslim Prime Minister Salim Hossi has instructed concerned authorities to transform the military airfield at Riad airbase in Bekaa Valley and the northern airbase of Kfartab into civil aviation facilities.

Officials at Middle East Airlines, Lebanon's national carrier, said engineering crews have been dispatched to examine both facilities.

Beirut international airport, which has been often closed by civil war fighting, had been the country's only air travel utility.

The decree made no mention of an airfield in the township of Halat, in the Christian enclave, which Christian militias had been seeking to open to civilian traffic.

But Christian sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said efforts were under way to legalise Halat as a civil airport, too.

Most of the estimated 1 million Christians living in the Christian enclave travel by sea to the east Mediterranean island of Cyprus for onward connections.

The State Department has said that the Lebanese ambassador to the United States had resigned.

The government of Lebanon informed us ... that ambassador (Abdullah) Bouhabib had resigned his post, effective Dec 11," the department said in a written statement.

Eight people die in house collapse: Eight people were killed and 15 were injured on Thursday when a house collapsed in the Egyptian town of Hawara, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (Mena) reported. (Reuters)

Bank scandal: Italian Treasury Minister Guido Carli said on Thursday that Iraq paid for some shipments of arms and strategic materials with loans from Italy's Banco Nazionale Del Lavoro.

The minister also told the Senate Finance Committee that directors in Rome were aware of and involved in the extension of \$2.8 billion in irregular loans by the bank's branch in Atlanta, Georgia. (AP)

Flash floods drown 27: Local authorities estimate flash floods have caused damage worth 250 million dirhams (\$30 million) in desert areas of southeastern Morocco, the Rabat daily Al Aman reported on Friday. (Reuters)

300,000 to face starvation: Around 300,000 southern Sudanese will face starvation because renewed fighting between government and rebel troops has suspended relief operations in the region, a Western relief official said on Thursday. (AP)

Ait Ahmed returns: Algerian revolutionary hero Hocine Ait Ahmed returned home on Friday from 23 years in exile to a rapturous welcome from thousands of supporters. (Reuters)

No progress made at Gulf talks: Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz said on Wednesday that no progress was made in separate talks that he and his Iranian counterpart held this week with the UN Secretary General and he was returning home. (Reuters)

Mahmudine ready to include Iran-based men: The head of the Afghan rebel leadership in Pakistan said on Thursday they were ready to broaden the base of their government-in-exile by including Iran-based groups. (Reuters)

Unification of Yemen: North Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdel Karim El Sayyid said that North Yemen and Marxist-oriented South Yemen would become one unified state in less than one year from now. (UPI)

Baghdad has strike missile

We have to defend ourselves: Aziz

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 15. (Reuters): Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz has said a rocket capable of placing a satellite into orbit that his country recently launched was intended for peaceful purposes while another missile also tested was a military deterrent.

"We don't believe that the first missile has anything to do with the conflict in the region, because it is a peaceful achievement," he told a press conference.

This rocket, called Al Aabid (worshipper), was a "scientific achievement and made for peaceful purposes," he said.

The second missile, which he said was a surface-to-surface rocket called Tamani, was a

2,000-km (1,250-mile) range, had a military purpose.

"We have to take into consideration for our defence purposes that our country is still being threatened by Iran. We are in a situation of no war and no peace," Aziz said.

"So we have to do whatever we can to provide the necessary defensive means to defend our country if the other side thinks once again of the renewal of hostilities."

Iran and Iraq have observed a ceasefire since August 1988 in their eight-year-long Gulf war but have not yet concluded a definitive peace.

Both Aziz and Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati are in New York for separate talks

with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on prospects for reviving the peace process.

Asked by a reporter for an Israeli newspaper whether the Iraqi surface-to-surface missile was also seen as a deterrent against other Middle East states, such as Israel, Aziz replied: "If any country in the region or outside the region attacks Iraq, then Iraq will have the right to defend itself against the aggressor."

Iraq announced last week that it had launched an 80-foot (25-metre), 48-ton rocket into space from the Al Anbar space centre west of Baghdad.

US officials expressed concern over the development in light of the proliferation of missile technology in the Middle East.

Egypt, Libya defuse tension

Agreement reached

CAIRO, Dec 15. (AP): Egypt and Libya have agreed to build roads connecting oases, share television programmes and cooperate in agricultural and industrial projects, major relaxations in tensions between the long-standing neighbours.

"Most Arab states regard Israel as possessing a biological and chemical as well as nuclear capability," Feldman said in answer to other speakers who expressed fear of Arab states.

These concerns were heightened by foreign news reports that Israel has developed a "Jericho II" missile that could reach Arab capitals in minutes, he said.

For the Arabs, this comprises the most salient technological manifestation of Israel's long reach," said Feldman, an expert in nuclear strategy at the university's Jaffee centre for strategic studies.

Israel bars publication of information about missile or non-conventional weapons development, although there have been foreign reports of Israeli missile testing and the Jewish state is widely believed to have nuclear and chemical weapons.

News reports said they also agreed that Libya would join in an Arab-European dialogue scheduled for Paris on Dec 21-22 and would co-ordinate with Egypt its positions on it.

Journalists who accompanied the Egyptian leader to Sirte, Khadafi said he discussed the issue

with Mubarak who tried to persuade him to take part in the proposed dialogue. The text of the interview was published in the early editions of yesterday's Cairo newspaper.

"The issue is still under discussion," Khadafi said, citing a Libyan view that says the dialogue would not be among equals "because we are facing an industrial power which will be limited by 1992 according to a strategic programme while there is no Arab strategic plan, up until now, for economic and political co-operation."

French President Mitterrand called for the meeting, at which the foreign ministers of the 22 Arab League members and the 12 member states of the European Economic Community are to focus on Arab problems.

As reported by the government-owned Middle East news agency, other co-operative projects include Egyptian help for desert reclamation projects in southeastern Libya and construction of an 80-mile-long (125 km) road connecting Siwa oasis in Egypt's western desert with the Jaghbub oasis in eastern Libya.

The only document which reportedly signed was one for Egypt to supply technical expertise for Libyan industry.

News reports said they also agreed that Libya would join in an Arab-European dialogue scheduled for Paris on Dec 21-22 and would co-ordinate with Egypt its positions on it.

Journalists who accompanied the Egyptian leader to Sirte, Khadafi said he discussed the issue

with Mubarak who tried to persuade him to take part in the proposed dialogue. The text of the interview was published in the early editions of yesterday's Cairo newspaper.

"The issue is still under discussion," Khadafi said, citing a Libyan view that says the dialogue would not be among equals "because we are facing an industrial power which will be limited by 1992 according to a strategic programme while there is no Arab strategic plan, up until now, for economic and political co-operation."

French President Mitterrand called for the meeting, at which the foreign ministers of the 22 Arab League members and the 12 member states of the European Economic Community are to focus on Arab problems.

As reported by the government-owned Middle East news agency, other co-operative projects include Egyptian help for desert reclamation projects in southeastern Libya and construction of an 80-mile-long (125 km) road connecting Siwa oasis in Egypt's western desert with the Jaghbub oasis in eastern Libya.

The only document which reportedly signed was one for Egypt to supply technical expertise for Libyan industry.

News reports said they also agreed that Libya would join in an Arab-European dialogue scheduled for Paris on Dec 21-22 and would co-ordinate with Egypt its positions on it.

Journalists who accompanied the Egyptian leader to Sirte, Khadafi said he discussed the issue

with Mubarak who tried to persuade him to take part in the proposed dialogue. The text of the interview was published in the early editions of yesterday's Cairo newspaper.

"The issue is still under discussion," Khadafi said, citing a Libyan view that says the dialogue would not be among equals "because we are facing an industrial power which will be limited by 1992 according to a strategic programme while there is no Arab strategic plan, up until now, for economic and political co-operation."

French President Mitterrand called for the meeting, at which the foreign ministers of the 22 Arab League members and the 12 member states of the European Economic Community are to focus on Arab problems.

As reported by the government-owned Middle East news agency, other co-operative projects include Egyptian help for desert reclamation projects in southeastern Libya and construction of an 80-mile-long (125 km) road connecting Siwa oasis in Egypt's western desert with the Jaghbub oasis in eastern Libya.

The only document which reportedly signed was one for Egypt to supply technical expertise for Libyan industry.

News reports said they also agreed that Libya would join in an Arab-European dialogue scheduled for Paris on Dec 21-22 and would co-ordinate with Egypt its positions on it.

Journalists who accompanied the Egyptian leader to Sirte, Khadafi said he discussed the issue

PLOID from next week

ABUDHABI, Dec 15. (AP): The Palestinian diplomatic mission here will start issuing identity cards next week as a step towards establishing a Palestinian nationality, the mission head said yesterday.

Khaled Malak, recognised as ambassador of Palestine by the United Arab Emirates, said holders of the card would be able to obtain Palestinian nationality and a passport at a later stage.

"Issuing Palestinian identity cards is a comprehensively studied step, and will not affect the privileges of Palestinians holding other nationalities and passports," Malak told a news conference. He said the cards will be issued starting Monday.

There are roughly 70,000 Palestinians in the United Arab Emirates, part of an estimated 800,000 in the oil-rich Gulf region, where they form part of its large expatriate community.

Kuwait has the largest group of some 300,000 and the identity card procedures are scheduled to start there on Saturday. In Qatar, some 2,000 have already applied.

The majority of some 5 million Palestinians in exile carry passports or travel documents from Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Tunisia and South Yemen and are treated as nationals of those countries.

Of these, 1.7 million are in the Israeli-held West Bank and Gaza Strip, the territories generally designated as forming the wretched Palestinian state proclaimed by the Palestinian National Council or parliament-in-exile meeting in November 1988.

Since then the missions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation have been turned into embassies in the United Nations held four meetings this year.

"But no agreement has been reached and no date was set for the next meeting," he added.

Dali's statements contradicted those attributed to South Yemeni President Hafez al-Assad, who told the Al Ittihad newspaper of Abu Dhabi that talks on resuming relations with the United States after a 20-year break were "positive" and would recognise the new state.

Malak played down reports that some Arab states would withdraw citizenship privileges from those who obtained the Palestinian identity card.

"The step of issuing the identity card is mainly aimed at the construction of our independent state," he said.

It would also serve for a census on the number of Palestinians in the world, Malak added.

■ US ambassador Robert Pelletreau Jr. has met twice in the past 72 hours with the PLO's permanent representative in Tunis, Hakem Balawi, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

Spiritual leader Ayatollah Khamenei and Rafsanjani cast their ballots in Tehran, where 38 candidates are standing for four seats, the radio said. Another 26 candidates are contesting five provincial seats.

Sixty-four candidates, many of them hardline opponents of Rafsanjani and his so-called pragmatist policies, are contesting the nine seats, four in Tehran and five in other cities.

Irahi said that in Tehran alone, 2,500 polling booths were set up for the elections in addition to 260 mobile stations for those unable to commute.

Rafsanjani told the radio that a large turnout would show the people's interest in shaping their own destiny.

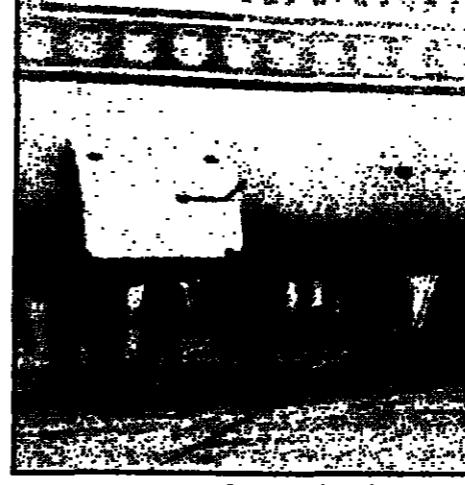
Since taking office in August, he has pushed economic reforms to give a greater role to the private sector and spur production at home. He also tried to forge better ties with the outside world.

Hardliners have voiced concerns about the election results, particularly the large turnout of voters.

Iranian officials say the election was a success and that the turnout was high, reflecting the people's desire for change.

Iranian officials say the election was a success and that the turnout was high, reflecting the people's desire for change.

SYRIA



A Syrian airliner being unloaded at Cairo airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

Egypt-Syria ties soon

Contacts on for Mubarak-Assad summit

ABU DHABI, Dec 15. (Kuna): Diplomatic relations between Syria and Egypt will be restored during the coming two weeks, press reports here said yesterday.

"Al Ittihad" daily quoted diplomatic sources in Damascus as saying that the announcement of restoring the diplomatic relations depends on the expected meeting between Syrian President Hafez Assad and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Dr Esam Abdel Meguid will arrive in Damascus during next week carrying a message from President Mubarak to President Assad and to discuss with Syrian officials the necessary arrangements for a summit meeting between the two leaders, the paper quoted the sources as saying.

They also noted that Libyan leader Moammar Khadafi might join the summit meeting.

The paper quoted Libyan sources as saying that one of the objectives of President Mubarak's visit to Libya was to arrange for a meeting between Mubarak and Assad.

They added that the restoration of air lines between

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Baker calls for closer American, EEC links

BRUSSELS, Dec 15. (Reuter): US Secretary of State James Baker called for sweeping new co-operation between the United States and the European Economic Community while the two sides met for high-level talks in Brussels today.

In remarks prepared for delivery at a news conference after the annual US-EEC ministerial meeting, Baker urged closer transatlantic links with the 12-nation EEC on security, political, commercial and scientific matters.

"If we can develop commercial, political and science agreements with the member states it seems reasonable to explore what we might develop with the community itself," he said.

Baker, who on Tuesday proposed a treaty between the EEC and the United States to formalise closer ties, said he did not want to impose his ideas on Europe, but sought to start a dialogue on the possibilities.

He said the annual consultations with the EEC executive commission, traditionally held in conjunction with Nato ministerial meetings, should be made separate, and proposed next year's session be held in Washington.

Baker met EEC Commission president Jacques Delors, Farm, trade, commerce and environment chiefs from the two sides also met in an intensive half-day of talks.

Baker suggested other areas for co-operation should be the fight against terrorism, aid, drugs, and the environment.

"US-EU relations are at a low ebb. Europe's problems are big and could help us to find some problems that respect no borders," Baker said.

US commits \$200m to Poland

WASHINGTON, Dec 15. (UPI):

The White House announced a US commitment of as much as \$200 million yesterday to a proposed \$500 million multilateral bridge loan to help further the implementation of economic reforms in Poland.

Deputy White House Press Secretary Steve Hart said the loan arrangement under discussion would be contingent on an agreement between Poland and the International Monetary Fund on an economic reform plan.

The loan would help Poland meet its financial obligations until it begins receiving expected assistance from the IMF and the World Bank. The loan then would be repaid from the IMF financing and World Bank loans.

DOHA SEMINAR

Indian rupee	17.510
Sri Lankan rupee	7.450
Pakistani rupee	13.910
Bangladesh taka	9.060
US dollar	29.520
Pound sterling	47.325
UAE dirham	08034
Deutsche mark	17120
Japanese yen	02056

DOHA, Dec 15 (Opecs): "How to promote regional co-operation among Arab countries to turn the region into an international gas market," is the theme of a number of research studies presented to the second five-day seminar on gas co-operation among Arab countries which ended here yesterday.

The seminar emphasised the need to intensify research and exploration activities in Arab countries and to develop the already discovered resources. Proven natural gas reserves in the Arab world are estimated at 24 trillion cubic metres (657 trillion cubic feet) or 22 per cent of world reserves.

The seminar called for the establishment of a comprehensive Arab gas market, noting that utilisation of gas in the region could be more profitable than even export, though adding that if exports were found profitable, interna-

markets should not be ignored. A communiqué issued called on Arab countries to turn international developments in terms of new technologies, especially those involving gas liquefaction. It also urged exchange of expertise among Arab countries in the gas production and industrialisation.

One presentation, by Robert Mabro, director of the Energy Studies Institute at Oxford University, noted that a plan to link Gulf countries with a gas network utilising Qatar's giant North Gasfield was economically feasible.

He pointed out that such a grid could eventually link the region with Turkey and later with Western Europe.

The idea was also backed in a research paper presented by Jassim Al Guner, head of the economic department at the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

Mabro forecast increasing world demand for gas and oil in the next few years and said that oil prices would gradually rise in the next two years and markedly so after 1993, in view of growing world demand.

In reviewing the market situation, he affirmed that gas requirements would increase in the United States, Europe and the Far East.

Mabro emphasised the need for greater Arab co-operation in the gas industry. He also noted that, in view of international detente, more markets in the US and Western Europe would be open to Soviet gas exports.

Al Guner also stressed the need to develop the Arab gas industry. He said Arab states had succeeded in reducing the portion of flared gas

from 70 per cent in the 1970s to just 10 per cent at present, a reduction he attributed to the growth of the gas industry.

He called for expanding the use of gas in electricity generating stations in Arab countries and for increasing exports of oil derivatives, noting that efforts were underway to replace oil with gas as fuel wherever possible and to export larger quantities of oil.

"This will be the major trend in the next years. New gas finds in the Arab world will encourage Arab countries to find export outlets," he explains.

He noted that the current capacity of the Arab gas industry had reached 30-40 million tons of oil equivalent a year or 10 per cent of world trade.

Opec Secretary-General Abdul Aziz Al Wattar said that proven natural gas reserves in the Arab countries totalled 24 trillion cu. metres or 22 per cent of world reserves.

LONDON, Dec 15 (Reuter): US trade and inflation figures jolted the dollar on Friday, dragging it down more than a pence against the West German mark before the US currency picked up some lost ground in later European trading.

Data from Washington showed the US trade gap jumped 20 per cent to a worse-than-expected \$10.2 billion in October, while September's shortfall was revised upwards to \$8.3 billion from 7.9 billion.

A 0.1 per cent drop in US producer prices in November indicated domestic inflationary pressures were easing and economists said this could prompt the Federal Reserve, America's central bank, to relax credit policy further.

"It's quite feasible that we could see an easing as early as next week," said Tim Fox, treasury economist at London's Midland Bank. "The dollar could well drop below 1.70 marks in the near-term."

The dollar stood around 1.7335 marks just before the figures were announced but quickly fell to around 1.7175.

The weaker dollar helped lift gold, boosting the price by \$3.75 to close in London at \$412 an ounce.

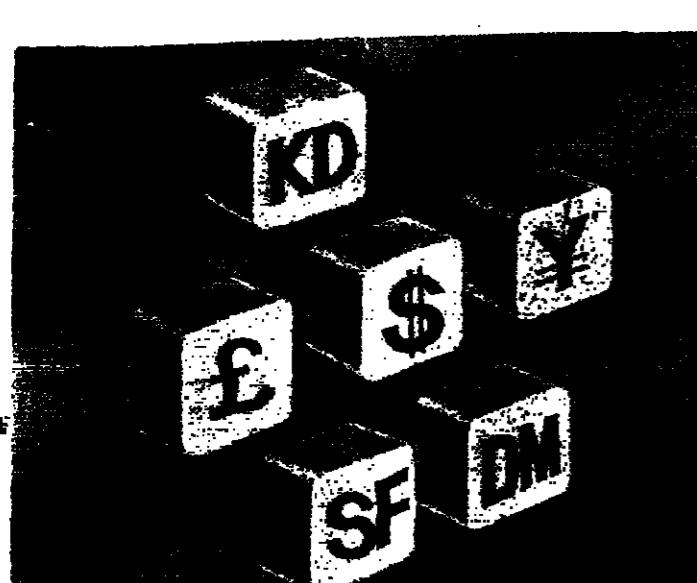
Dealers said the metal looked set to stay in a \$405 to 415 range for the rest of the year.

Comprehensive Arab gas market vital

Call to intensify exploration

Dollar jolted by US trade figures

Cash Investment Account
It's got everything you need from a Savings Investment.



Easy Conversion Among Accounts

The Cash Investment Account is a KD Savings Account which can also be opened in US\$, SF, DM, £, etc. and YEN. What's more, you can convert among these currencies to another currency. Thus, you can take advantage of the changes in exchange rates and interest rates.

Free Withdrawals and Transfers

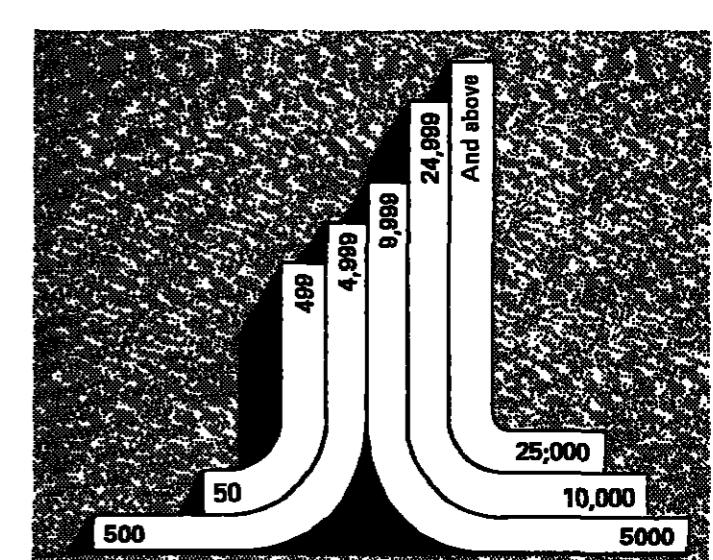
The Cash Investment Account gives you the flexibility to withdraw cash or to transfer money from any of these currencies up to three times a month without penalty whatsoever.

BKME
THE BANK OF KUWAIT & THE MIDDLE EAST
The Only Bank You Need



No Minimum Balance Required

With as low as KD.50 deposit in the Cash Investment Account, you can open a KD Account and five other Accounts in \$, £, etc. and earn interest. Once the accounts are opened, there's no need to maintain a minimum balance in order for your money to earn interest.



Higher Interest

The Cash Investment Account offers six interest rate tiers linked to the market rates. Changes in your balance are automatically adjusted to the corresponding interest rates. Thus, the higher your balance, the higher the accruing interest you earn.

Cairo owes Washington about \$11.7 b

Egypt faces US debt repayment deadline

CAIRO, Dec 15. (Reuters): Egypt, already strapped for hard currency, faces today deadline for a major repayment of US debt to head off suspension of fresh American aid.

Economic sources said Egypt has to pay today a first instalment on \$30 million owed this month in military debt repayments. The second falls due on December 20.

Failure to pay would mean falling foul of the "Brooke amendment," a US provision under which fresh aid is suspended to countries more than a year behind on debt repayments.

Egypt's second biggest recipient of US aid after Israel, is dependent on annual US funding worth more than \$2 billion to prop up its economy.

It stopped most repayments 18 months ago and awaits an International Monetary Fund deal before it can reschedule total debts of about \$50 billion. Cairo owes Washington about \$11.7 billion, \$9.5 billion repayable in 1989 and \$4.8 billion in 1990, according to a March US embassy report.

It has stalled off the punitive Brooke amendment previously by using funds held in a special account in the United States. But by late November the account had run dry.

Western diplomats say that more worrying for Egypt than this month's payment is the fact that it must pay every month from now until it reaches an IMF accord and reschedules its debt.

"It is really focusing their minds," one diplomat said.

Egypt will have to find up to \$200 million to cover repayments from December until March, with the biggest single payment of \$90 million due in March.

Cairo needs IMF approval of its plans for economic reform before it can go to the Paris Club of creditor nations for a debt rescheduling accord.

It is hoped to reach a deal with the IMF this autumn to head off demands from the increasingly impatient creditors.

But sources close to the talks say progress has been slow and Egypt might have to wait until the spring before it gets its IMF deal.

The IMF is pushing for economic liberalisation, reform to exchange rates and the raising of interest rates. But Egypt has resisted quick changes fearing they might unleash social unrest.

China devalues currency

BEIJING, Dec 15. (UPI): China devalued its currency today by 21.2 per cent in an effort to grapple with an economic crisis spurred in part by international sanctions imposed to protest its handling of the pro-democracy movement.

Officials said the devaluation of the yuan will take effect tomorrow.

The move was announced by the state administration of exchange control on behalf of the People's Bank of China, the central bank, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

After the readjustment, 4.1703 yuan will buy one US dollar compared with the current 3.7128 yuan.

It was China's first devaluation of its currency in more than three years, coming in the middle of a national austerity programme to rein in inflation and regain control of the economy.

China's foreign trade has also been sharply affected by foreign reaction to last June's crackdown on the democracy movement. Trade, investment and tourism have all fallen off.

The devaluation will effectively make exports cheaper and imports more costly, which should tend to improve the trade balance, officials said.

Economist wins Agnelli prize

ROME, Dec 15. (AP): Harvard economics professor Amartya Kumar Sen was awarded the Senator Giovanni Agnelli International Prize for Ethics, the Fiat automobile company announced yesterday.

Sen, an Indian national born in southwestern Bengal province in 1933, was selected for his contributions "as an economist and a philosopher, to our understanding of the ethical dimension of modern society."

Sen, who has also taught at the London School of Economics and at Oxford University, is a specialist on developing economics.

The jury included Giovanni Agnelli, grandson of the late senator and chairman of Fiat, former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, Italian Senator Giovanni Spadolini, Roger Fauroux, president of the French Ecole Nationale D'Administration and New York businessman Felix Rohatyn.

The \$200,000 prize will formally be awarded next March in Turin, where Fiat has its headquarters.

'Straightforward man with flair'

Leading Spanish banker dies

ROCHESTER, Minnesota, Dec 15. (UPI): Pedro Toledo, a leading Spanish banker, died on Tuesday of liver complications at the Mayo Clinic. He was 54.

In Madrid, Spain's financial leaders, including Minister of Economics and Finance Carlos Solchaga, said Toledo's death was a major loss to the country's financial world.

"It is a big loss for the Spanish economy and for the Spanish banking system," said spokesman Ignacio Eguizabal. "He was a very intelligent, very bright banker."

Toledo was instrumental in orchestrating the October 1988 merger of the Banco de Vizcaya, of which he was president, with the Banco de Bilbao to create the largest financial institution in Spain.

Graeme Watkin, general manager of the bank's London branch, said the total assets of the bank were \$40 billion last December.

BBV is expected to be eclipsed soon by the merger of two large savings and loans based in Barcelona.

Toledo's successor will be chosen from Banco de Vizcaya directors to maintain a balance between the two original banks, Banco Bilbao Vizcaya said. Jose Angel Sanchez Asua is the remaining co-president.

Spanish national television said Toledo went to the Mayo Clinic several days ago with his wife, Elena Echevarria, and one of his four children to seek a liver transplant to save his life.

Toledo's ailment, which was not specified, was diagnosed at the Mayo Clinic three months ago when he slipped away from an International Monetary Fund meeting in Washington to visit the clinic, Spanish national television said.

Toledo became president of Banco de Vizcaya in 1987, and was one of the youngest leading bankers of the seven major Spanish banks.

He was described by admirers as a straightforward man with flair. He wore his hair longish for a banker, the back brushing his collar.

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs) Dec 14.		BSE Index	761.33	764.37
Pr. Close	Open	Close	727.50	730.25
ACC	345.50	359	362	360
Alem Chem	—	—	—	—
Alw Nis	—	—	—	—
Alw Fab	—	—	—	—
Ashley	93	94	94	94
Air Paint	207.50	207.50	208.75	208.75
Atlas Corp	44	44	45.50	45.50
Auto Corp	65	62.50	60	59
Nat Index	410.36	410.36	410.36	410.36
Bajaj Auto	366.25	372.50	370	370
Bon Dye	693	700	695	695
Blow Plant	190	189	188	188
Bk Bond	110	109	109	109
Burr Wel	85	90	85	85
Canshare	—	—	—	—
Cen Enka	3200	3225	3225	3225
Cg Spg	2780	2820	2795	2795
Colas	192.50	192.50	187.50	187.50
Crunt Gr	825	800	800	800
DCM	16	14.50	15.50	15.50
Deep Fert	34	35	35.50	35.50
Dunlop	76	74	76	76
SI Hotels	64	63	64	64
Escorts	80.50	80	80	80

Compiled by Kuwait-India International Exchange Co.

Tokyo shares

Nikkei stock average: 36271.94 (+ 90.39)		Hitachi Ltd.	1500	-20
Volume: 500 mill s		Hitachi Metal	1740	+20
Yen exchange rate: 144.30		Honda Motor	1820	0
Name of stock	Cl	Ito Yokado Co	4650	-40
Advantest Corp	4850	Kajima Corp	2300	+10
Ajimamoto	2830	Kawasaki H1	1090	0
Alps Electric	1980	Kobe Cast Iron	1400	+30
Asahi	2120	Kokusai Elec.	3500	+70
Asahi Chem Ind	1270	Komatsu Ltd.	1400	+10
Asahi Glass	2360	Kyocera Corp	5450	-10
C. Itoh Co.	1150	Mars	3690	-30
Canon Inc.	1850	Matsushita Ind	2970	+10
Casio Comp	1500	Mat Electric	2350	+20
Dai Nippon Printing	2350	Mazda M C	1000	+8
Danichi Seiyaku	2790	Mitsubishi Corp	1970	+70
Dai Nippon Ph	2790	Mitsubishi Estate	2680	+50
Dai Nippon Corp	1750	Mitsubishi H1	1160	-10
Ebara	2120	Mitsui R E	3270	+20
Fuji Photo	7890	Mitsuzono Corp	2000	0
Fujitsu Ltd.	4570	Modular Ph	4030	-120
Hanachi Credit	1500	Mori Seiki Co.	4290	-30
Hitachi Koki	1990	Provided by Nomura Investment Banking (MidEast), Bahrain	3080	-10

Swissair, Singapore Airlines plan alliance to form global link

ZURICH, Dec 15. (Reuters): Flag carriers Singapore Airlines and Swissair yesterday announced a deal to complete the final link in a three-way airline alliance spanning the globe.

The two airlines said in a joint statement they planned to cement the partnership by swapping stakes of up to five per cent of each other's shares in the next 12 months.

They already have a common US partner, Atlanta-headquartered Delta Air Lines Inc., giving the alliance strong bases in Europe, Asia and the United States.

"This trilateral alliance provides for

first truly global airline system — an alliance of real quality comprising three of the world's best airlines with a combined network spanning all continents on the globe with 237 destinations in 64 countries," SIA deputy chairman Lim Chin Beng told reporters.

Delta's strong US presence, Swissair's extensive route network in Europe and Africa, and SIA's destinations in Asia make the alliance a powerful one, he added.

Officials of Swissair-Schweizerische Luftverkehr AG have sought such links to help it compete in the liberalised air travel market of the 1990s, when only carriers of market

strength, financial muscle and favourable costs will survive.

The airlines said they planned to co-ordinate schedules between Switzerland and Singapore and in neighbouring regions and co-operate closely in marketing and service operations.

"This world-wide triple partnership opens up new and highly promising perspectives," Swissair's president Otto Loepke said. "We expect this co-operation to provide positive impulse for greater market growth and yield considerable synergic benefits at all levels of activity."

SIA and Delta, the third-largest US carrier, agreed in October on cross-investments of about \$180 million in each other.

Swissair and Delta agreed in July to exchange five per cent equity stakes as part of an agreement to co-operate on scheduling, marketing and reservation systems.

Swissair chairman Arnold Balleine-Weber said the carrier will retain its share capital to make a rights issue and the share swap. The latest partnership rounds out Swissair's strategic move to build up its international links before the European air travel market liberalised in 1992, he added.

Joey Lorenz, an airlines analyst at Handelsbank Nurnberg, said the partnership news came as no surprise because both Swissair and SIA get traditionally high ratings in surveys of frequent flyers.

"Swissair is looking for a partner on the same level in terms of quality and products," he said.

Swissair chairman Arnold Balleine-Weber said the carrier will retain its share capital to make a rights issue and the share swap. The latest partnership rounds out Swissair's strategic move to build up its international links before the European air travel market liberalised in 1992, he added.

Japanese firms likely to invest in '90

Manila economy may recover in 6 months

Stocks plunge again

MANILA, Dec 15. (Reuters): The Philippine economy can recover from the coup attempt within six months if President Corazon Aquino acts swiftly to punish rebel troops, revamp her cabinet and improve basic services, a leading research group said today.

Analysts from the Centre of Research and Communications said the government's ability to address the concerns of the Philippine people over the next half-year would determine the country's stability and dictate the pace of economic recovery.

Economist Bernardo Villegas, the centre's senior vice-president, said a slowdown in investment in the wake of the coup attempt would mean lower economic growth of five per cent in 1990.

Government officials have predicted a similar slowdown since the coup attempt. The government's original growth forecast for 1990 was between 6 and 6.3 per cent.

Villegas said growth in 1989 may slow to 5.6 per cent from 6.7 per cent last year, partly because of production losses due to power blackouts in the past two months. The government estimates growth this year at 5.8 per cent.

But the local economy will remain buoyant and sales at the large manufacturing companies will continue to grow moderately, Villegas said.

Omar Cruz of the centre's political forecasting unit said "it will take about six months to recover" from the coup attempt.

"The next three to six months are crucial. You have to cross that. If you don't, you are beholden to the momentum on the December coup," he said.

Cruz said Aquino would have to get rid of cabinet officials who

though technically capable, "lacked the political antennae" to sense the people's sentiments.

Villegas said the top concerns of foreign investors were how the government would punish the rebels, improve the infrastructure and use foreign aid more efficiently.

The military has said leaders and supporters of the coup attempt will be court-martialed.

Villegas expected Hong Kong and Taiwan investors to go ahead with commitments in the Philippines, but said Japanese businessmen would defer projects because they had a different investment psychology.

BANGLADESH

VICTORY DAY

AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT

Faith in non-alignment unshakable

Support intifada, lasting Gulf peace

Bangladesh President Hussain Muhammad Ershad's speech at the NAM summit held in Belgrade:

SINCE the first summit twenty-eight years ago in this historic city of Belgrade the world has changed but the spirit of non-alignment lives on.

The principles of non-alignment are embedded in the abhorrence and rejection of domination and hegemonism in international relations. It is surely remarkable that since its birth, the strength and relevance of non-alignment have in no way been impaired.

Bangladesh's faith in non-alignment is unshakable. We strongly believe that non-alignment



Ershad: confident

hegemonism of whatever source or origin exist. For small and weaker states constantly threatened by external aggression or internal subversion, non-alignment offers a key to their security and integrity. It remains our primary responsibility to safeguard member-states from the threat or the use of force.

The international situation has changed, perhaps in decisive ways, since the last summit in Harare. Surely the most significant change was the INF accord between the Soviet Union and the United States. It is the step in the definition of a realistic agenda of disarmament.

This basic philosophy does not exempt us from sharpening not only our ideas and concepts but also the methodology of our movement, as we seek to make out deliberations more business-like and pertinent.

As the movement grows in age and stature, it is necessary to identify concrete areas where the non-aligned nations can make a substantive contribution. No field offers a more realistic and urgent opportunity than dis-

armament and in particular nuclear disarmament.

The continuing deliberations on the link between disarmament and development call for specific inputs from the non-aligned nations. In addition to the study on the release of resources through disarmament and for development, other less obvious structural linkages between disarmament and development need to be defined and scientifically enunciated.

The movement can justly take pride in our significant contribution to the resolution of many problems.

We are particularly pleased that the tragedy of the Gulf war is over. Efforts must now be devoted to erecting the structure (Continued on Page 18)

Bangladesh urges action on economy

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud's speech at the 44th UN General Assembly meeting, held in New York, on Sept 1:



Anisul Islam Mahmud

THERE is much the U.N. system has achieved, though more remains to be done. Nonetheless, in recent months, the credibility of our organisation has not only enhanced but the confidence of the global community in its institutions has also taken firm roots. Today there is widespread belief that the U.N. has the unique potential and capacity not only to adjust multi-dimensional contemporary problems through co-operative approach and management.

Bangladesh, to improve the global economic climate would call for concerted and urgent action on the following:

First, substantial increase in concessionary financial flows to developing countries and reversal of the flow of world's investible surplus to meet the need for (Continued on Page 18)

On the road to prosperity....

TODAY is the 18th anniversary of our great Victory Day. On the day that will perpetually inspire us to our national struggle to build a new, happy and prosperous Bangladesh. On this auspicious occasion I wish my fellow countrymen in Kuwait to pay our richest tributes to the immortal martyrs of our liberation struggle. It was their unparalleled patriotism and supreme self-sacrifice that made the ultimate victory possible. May their sacred souls rest in eternal peace in heaven.

On this historic day, I extend my heartfelt felicitations to all the Bangladeshis living in Kuwait for the good image they

have created of themselves here and also for their contribution to the Bangladeshi economy.

11. By the grace of Almighty Allah, 1989 has been a happy year for the country. The economy has shown impressive recovery from last year's devastating floods. Happily, we had bumper crops due to the absence of natural calamities this year.

Meanwhile, the government has undertaken a number of short-term and long-term steps to control future floods. It is a matter of great satisfaction for us that the international donor community has spontaneously come forward with a pledge to eradicate this monstrous scourge.

Potential

Once our land was known for its riches. It used to be called "the Bengal of gold". Even now we have enormous potentialities. But we are unable to make use of them for lack of requisite capital.



K. M. Shehabuddin
She has abundant raw materials for industries of different kinds. The new industrial policy offers (Continued on Page 18)



Flowers and Fragrance Flight RajaniGandha Class

Welcome with flowers. The fragranced atmosphere of care in the air. Soft refined grace of the stewardesses.

Food and mood of Bengali aristocracy. On board Biman's RajaniGandha Class (Executive Class).

The friendly fragrance of our flight lingers on.



For reservation of ticket and cargo, please contact our General Sales Agent

AL ATHLA TRAVELS

Al Homaizi Building, Al Soor Street, P.O. Box 23837, 13099 Safat, Kuwait
Tel. Nos: 2441041/42 and 2426846/47 or your travel agent.



BIMAN
BANGLADESH AIRLINES বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স
AL HOMAIZI BUILDING, AL SOOR STREET, P.O.BOX 23837, SAFAT, 13099 KUWAIT. PHONE 2426846/7, 2439764.

On the auspicious occasion of VICTORY DAY In remembrance of The Valiant Martyrs of 1971



ش.م.ا. التجارية للحياة
AL-HAYAT TRADING CO. W.L.L.
Tel: 4834120/4834121 Telex: 44495 - AOLAD
P.O. Box 1668 Safat, 13017 Kuwait
Fax: 4845280

Representing
The Trading Corporation of Bangladesh,
The State Trading House of this great nation



Stoneware



Earthenware

Introducing Bangladeshi
products to Kuwait market.



Bamboo and cane products



Canned food products



'Golden fibre' Jute



Ready-made garments



Shrimps

Six seasons

Changing seasons, varying colours

WHEN the "Krishnachuras" start blooming and the stars blink on a breezy night, it is time for spring in Bangladesh. A breath of fresh southerly wind invigorates the mind and the body. One speaks of the full moon and of "going to the forests." Most of the trees have shaken up from their winter slumber and some have sprouted fresh leaves.

The Siberian ducks are still on the innumerable ponds, lakes and canals, preparing to return home. The local birds are spreading their wings. The inertia of winter is gone. This is time for rejuvenation.

Spring which officially starts on the first of the Bengali month of Falgun brings about a magical change in the environment. It is not only the trees and the birds which welcome the advent of the "season of rebirth," but also the people. Spring festivities or "Basant Utsob" are a part of the tradition and culture of the people in Bangladesh.

Colour

It is the season of colour. The women wear saffron sarees to welcome the season of youth. The colour matches with the mood of the time. As part of the festivities, fairs are held in the villages and towns and there are carnivals in many parts of the country. Spring stretches into the month of "Chaitra" when the season becomes drier and the skies clearer. The "Krishnachuras" also become brighter and their scarlet colour spreads all over.

Spring quietly gives way to summer as the month of Baishak comes and heralds the new year. It is also the season of storms with the winds becoming wild and changing their direction. The "Kal Baishakhi" as storms are called blow away houses, pull down trees and sometimes ravage the rice paddies whipping waves in the so long peaceful rivers.

Storm

The white fluffy clouds of spring replaced by dark ominous formations in the horizon. They bring rain on the parched fields. The people come out in thousands to welcome the new year and the rain. The farmers



The six seasons in Bangladesh are distinct and go on in an eternal cycle. The land is rejuvenated and the spirit of the people is reborn. The seasonal cycle has become a part of the culture of the country, writes Ahmad Fazal.

look to the sky for the water laden grey clouds which also ends the spell of drought and prepares the ground for planting a new crop.

Despite the storms, the people take the advent of the year in stride. In the cities and town, the new Bengali year is welcomed with songs and dances. In Dhaka, men, women and children go to the parks early morning

where poems are recited and songs are sung in a new ceremonial welcome of the new year. *Naba Barsha* as the new year is called brings hopes for all.

The temperature soar in summer but occasionally as the mercury rises, the rain comes down, drenching the land and cooling the environment.

Summer is also the season of "mellow fruitfulness." As the

month of "Jaistha" arrives, the mangoes ripe, the jack fruits hanging by the hundred from sprawling trees grow juicier and the ripe black berries start falling as if from the sky.

Then there are fruits like the lichis, the bananas and the different kinds of wild succulent berries. The departing melons still remain in the market as do the papayas continuing to add to

the diversity. The heat of the summer is driven off with the arrival of the rains. The "Barsha" begins with the month of "Ashar" and continues into the following month of "Sraban." This is the peak of the monsoon in Bangladesh, the rains come down in torrents and they flood the paddies. The rivers burst their banks and often wash away people's homes. Even the meandering rivulets have gurgling currents as the water gush through their channels.

There is a special beauty in these two months. This is created not only by the rains but also by the flowers which bloom and the purity of the greenness which surrounds everything. The poets in Bangladesh as well as the painters have always been charmed by the season's subdued shades. Countless poems have been written on the season of the rains and these are mostly romantic compositions.

Rains in Bangladesh are associated with love, romance and the purity of the soul. It has also a spiritual undertone which the works of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore reflect.

The rivers dance with the rains buffeting the boats. The boatman sings and on the bank, a solitary young woman pines in her loneliness. There is mysticism in the season.

Harvest

Then the rains peter out and *Sarai* or early autumn arrives. The trees are greener in the month of *Bhadra* when the rains become intermittent. The light is more subdued in the month of *Ashvin* while the rivers are still in spate. The temperatures have also come down and the crops get ready for harvest.

Sarai leads the way to *Hemanta* or autumn. The colours of the leaves of many trees change with the advent of the month of *Kartik*. Some trees start to shed their leaves. The crops have been harvested and the farmers are ready for another round of festivities. In *Agrahayan* the harvest enters the farmer's store house. The smoke coming out of the thatched huts in the village show that the rice is being "parboiled" and processed for the market.



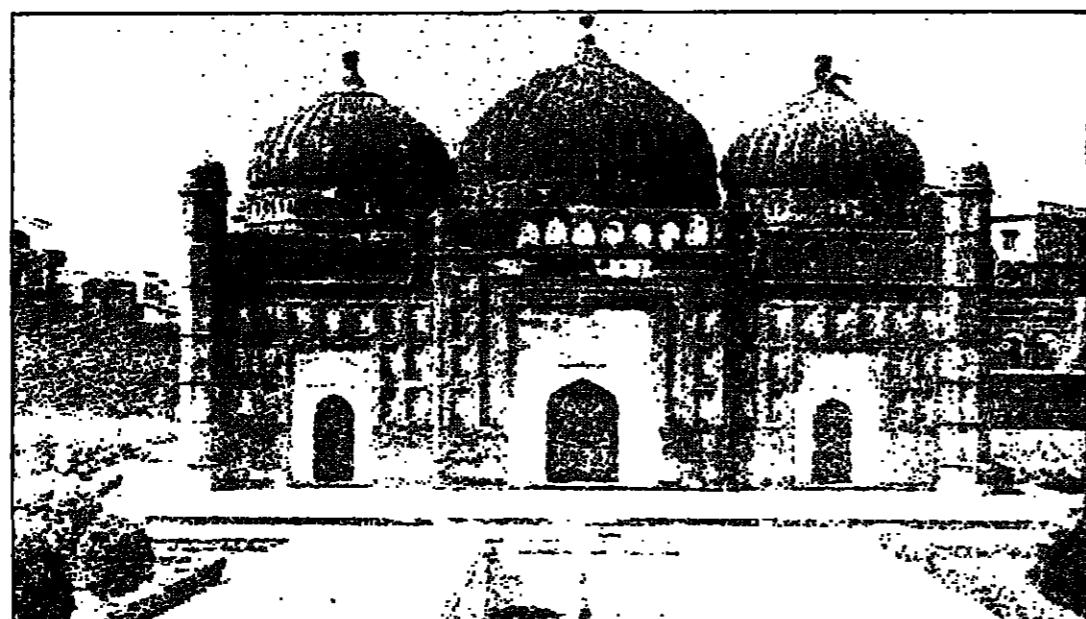
Vitality of Islamic architecture

SINCE the emergence of the Muslim community in Bangladesh at the dawn of the 13th century A.D., new cities were built and the old ones reconstructed. These city-centres were adorned with mosques, mausolea, madrassas, forts, palaces, gardens, bridges, roads, victory towers, gateways and such other religious and utilitarian structures. However, the mosques are undoubtedly the most numerous and remarkable among all the varieties of buildings produced during the eight centuries of Islam in Bangladesh. In fact, a typical landscape here is almost inconceivable without the presence of the mosque. The mosques in Bangladesh form a coherent group for their regional character of architectural forms, materials, techniques and decorations. In the broad spectrum of Islamic architecture, this unity of tradition has been somewhat difficult to perceive because of inadequate study of the subject.

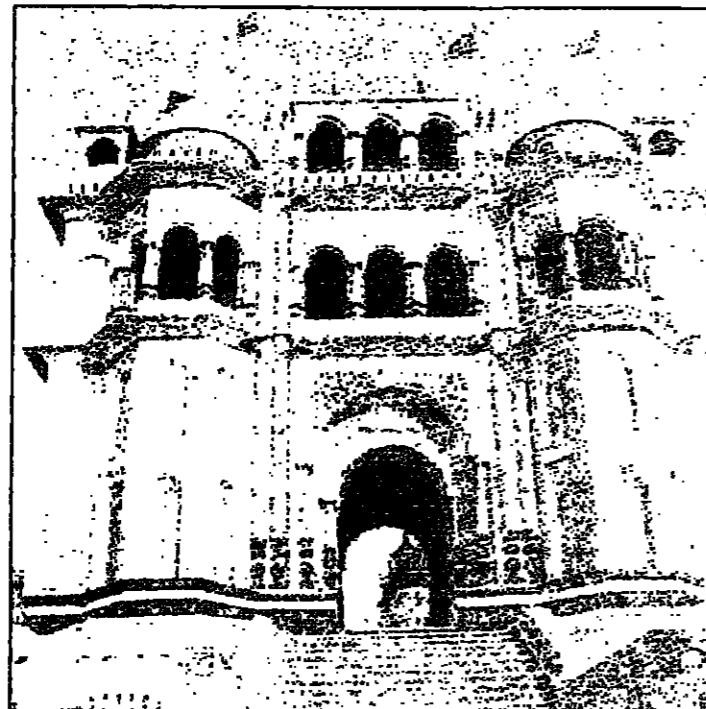
A random selection of mosques of present day Bangladesh highlight some aspects of the immense vitality and originality of the Islamic architectural tradition in this part of the world. The pioneering Muslims who established their rule in Bangladesh had already with them a highly developed architecture. Certain elements, such as the arch, dome, minaret and mihrab, were already recognised as the distinguishing features of Islamic architecture, evolved through an experience of more than half a millennium. Notwithstanding the facts that Bangladesh received and absorbed Muslim immigrants from various parts of the Central and West Asia along with their ideas, artistic views and technology, the regional Bengali elements of contemporary monumental traditions as expressed in the pre-Muslim Buddhist and Hindu architecture largely retained their utility. The resultant fusion after 'adoption and adaptation' happily appeared to be at once Islamic and Bengali.

Except a few examples of recent origin, perhaps no courtyard type of mosque was built within the present bounds of Bangladesh. The heavy monsoon obliged the acceptance of the enclosed type of building without courtyard. The humid climate also contributed to the evolution of the striking curvilinear roof-forms derived from typical rural thatched bamboo huts of Bangladesh.

From the standpoint of architectural planning of the



Above: Lalbagh Jame-e-Masjid, built in 1680 AD; below: gateway of Qadam Rasul Mosque (18th century).



mosques the Bengali architects and masons had rather unrestrained freedom to resort to a wide variety of ground plans. The square or rectangular mosques offered further variations by the number of domes and aisles. The addition of a verandah or an annex or annexes, or their absence, would also contribute to their importance. A cursory glance over the extant mosque with a single dome and a verandah, square mosque with nine domes and triple aisles, rectangular mosque with twenty-eight domes and triple aisles, rectangular mosque with fifteen domes and triple aisles, rectangular mosque with five domes and triple aisles, rectangular mosque with seventy-seven domes and seven aisles and

many other architectural combinations.

The mosques in Bangladesh, as in cases of other areas of building art, had mainly three phases of development. The first phase began with the initial Muslim conquest and continued throughout the few centuries of semi-independent viceroys of the Delhi Sultans and, thereafter, the independent Sultans of Bangladesh, till 1576 AD. The second phase was co-existent with the Mughal rule when this region was annexed as a part of the north-Indian empire. The last phase began with the decline of the Mughals and the Europeans taking a firmer foothold in the middle of the 18th century.

The transition of the Muslims from the 19th to the 20th century in Bangladesh saw them at the lowest of their prosperity. The aftermath of the First World War instilled a new determination among the Bengali Muslims. The long march of Bangladesh had already started. The Muslims in this part of the world, now known as Bangladesh dreamed of a separate homeland. Ultimately, the British were forced to leave in 1947 after acquiring economically and politically unworkable 3-segmented Pakistan, carved out of Hindu dominated British India. After two decades, the chapter of exploration was brought to an end finally in 1971 with the sacrifice of innumerable lives in the War of Liberation. Bangladesh was born and the freshly owned independence created a new impetus to again undertake different types of building activities.

By Dr Enamul Haque

OUR HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF VICTORY DAY OF BANGLADESH

For more than 35 years we have been in electrical lines in accordance with all the international standards Agents, distributors, stockists & dealers in electrical items & electrical contracts "Materials for the electrical & mechanical engineer" The power to project

Specialising in: Kopex Conduit System, UK; Fuji Electrical Goods, Japan & all electrical goods & accessories.

Find your pot of gold with Shamali's reliability, strict quality control, punctual delivery, competitive prices & you have the ingredients that make Shamali an excellent supplier. For details contact:

AL SHAMALI & WARIS CO. LTD.
Tel: 2428915/16 Tele: 24247171 WAPSHAM Fax: 2403915
Code No. 13023 Kushtia-1, P.O. Box 2288 Sylhet
AGENTS-DISTRIBUTORS-STOCKISTS & DEALERS IN ELECTRICAL ITEMS & ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

Showroom No. 1
Telephone No. 2429941/2437619

Showroom No. 3
Telephone No. 4831958

Showroom No. 2
Telephone No. 4845049

Showroom No. 4
Telephone No. 2445962

Mircoor Modern Factory (Manufacturing Panel Boards & Enclosures) Telephone No. 4348113
Cosmic Electrical & Industrial Est. (Subsidiary) Telephone No. 4333136/7

"We are pleased to serve & serve to please"

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

MARKET PLACE

FOR RENT

Villas, half villas and flats with swimming pool
Tel: 2401908 - 2407677
2451489 - 2451476
FAX 2403260
The All Real Estate

Al Ibrahim Taxi
Tel. 2400013, 2400014, 2400015
Farwaniya branch
Tel. 4745600, 4745900

RAJU STUDIO

Al-Mohi Complex, Muroob
● Give film before 12.00 noon for printing & developing and collect on the same day in the evening.
● Give one film for printing & developing and get an enlargement 20x25 cm FREE

FOR SALE
National Telephone System (50 handsets) + KSU for sale
Tel: 2433755

GENERAL SERVICE

For all your shifting with transportation, painting, wall papering carpet & villa cleaning. We are of your service, with skilled workers. We are also buying and selling furniture.
Contact: Mr. Stanley
Tel: 4748877
Al Mawasim Trdg.

REQUIRED
1) Out-door salesman for electronics
2) Technician to repair car stereos and home appliances. Contact us in person from 10 am to 12 pm
Sook Al-Messee (Salat Square) Al-Mezzanin No 79 Kuwait

DOOR TO DOOR HATID LIGAYA
PHILIPPINES 483-9009 25 483-9889 FAST-RELIABLE *

BOODAI AVIATION
GOODBYE TO 8T'S AND WELCOME 9T'S
Fun Packages
— CAIRO — BAHRAIN — DUBAI — ATHENS — CRUISES — GOLF AND MANY MORE
Tel: 2418855/2414857

FOR RENT
BAYAN, villa, 2 floors with a garden, for 2 families. Rent KD750.
SALWA, villa with a large garden for one family. Rent KD600.
For further information Tel. 2405180, 2452198.
Al Gangi Real Estate

REQUIRED URGENTLY
Auto-engineer With knowledge of car computer/auto-mechanics & auto-electricians for petrol engine cars, preferably with Kuwaiti driving licence. Tel: 2404223

Somebody else must have my stuff ...
I should have called Alghanim...
No one does it better. The biggest IATA Freight agent in Kuwait.

Alghanim
Sea-Freight-Air Packing
Customer Services Tel. 4745533

AL-MUTHANA CITY PLAYGROUP
"The best English Nursery"

REGISTER NOW FOR NEW TERM STARTING JAN 2!

Fun and education all in one. Enjoy our spacious area with outside playground. Transport available.

The Playgroup is affiliated to Kuwait English School, Al-Muthanna City Playgroup, Al Muthanna Complex, Block 6, Floor 1, Tel: 2428160

LOST

PASSPORT No. C 183475 in the name of Mohd Ali son of Mohd Sherif, Pakistani. Lost on 7/12/89. Finder please tele. Mr Nasim, 2435038 or inform the Pakistani embassy.

(AT5-30688-3)

ACCOMMODATION

For Rent

SALWA, deluxe, ground floor flat, CAC, with swimming pool, cupboards, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, servant's room, and a large hall. Rent KD450, with water and electricity. Tel. 5324848. (AT2-50635-6)

SULAIKHIAT, top half large luxury villa, 5 bedrooms, 4 with ensuite bathrooms, 2 lounges, large kitchen. Total floor area approximately 650 sq.m. CAC, car park. KD500, with water and electricity. Tel. Nadia, 5730720. (AT5-50679-3)

Available

FARWANIYA, on the main road, opposite the clinic. One room in a flat for one or two Indian bachelors or a couple, to share with an Indian family. Tel. 3720572, after 8 am.

(AT5-50684-3)

KUWAIT City, above Hot Pot Restaurant, accommodation with tele. facilities for 3 Goan bachelors, to share with an Indian family. Tel. 2409473, after 2 pm.

(AT5-50683-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

SHAMIYA, near the city. Sharing accommodation with tele. facilities for a working lady to share with an Indian/Filipino family. Tel. N.P. Reddy, 4841832. (AT1-50709-3)

Foreman, Cooney take on children

NEW YORK, Dec 15. (AP): There stood George Foreman, holding a snoopy and a balloon, twisted to look like a duck.

"Nice dog, George," a man said.

Foreman smiled and quickly put the stuffed animal behind his back.

In another part of the cafeteria stood a grinning Gerry Cooney.

On Jan 15, Foreman and Cooney will square off in a 12-round bout at Atlantic City in a ring surrounded by sceptics and people rooting for them to take each other's head off. On Wednesday, they were surrounded by kids, balloons and animals.

There was a band playing "Jingle Bells" and "White Christmas" and a clown with a red nose and a huge hammer, which had the size but not the weight of the kind used by boys trying to impress their girlfriends by ringing the bell at carnivals.

Foreman, a 41-year-old former heavyweight champion, and Cooney, a 33-year-old former heavyweight contender, happily met a bunch of underprivileged kids at Macy's "Operation happy children."

It didn't matter to the 6-foot-4, 250-pound (193-centimetre, 113-kilogramme) Foreman and the 6-7, 235-pound (201 centimetre, 107-kilogramme) Cooney that they ranked behind the stuffed animals in the minds of the children.

"I feel like a kid again," Cooney said. "You come here and see the expressions on these kids' faces. I have a son, who's 12 months old" (Christopher Gerald).

Good

"Anytime in the year anybody wants you to do something for children, it makes you feel good," said Foreman, who is the father of eight children ranging in age from 22 months to 16 years. Asked to address the gathering, Foreman stood in front of a small group of adults and said, "Where are all the children? I'm going to the children."

He did.

Foreman, who became an evangelist after retiring following a decision loss to Jimmy Young on March 17, 1977, said he began a comeback in 1987 to make money to support his youth centre at Houston.

"I plan to open a second centre the middle of next year," said Foreman, whose comeback now extends through 19 straight victories, 18 by knockout. The quality of his opposition has been such that Cooney will be his first opponent whose name is known outside his own household.

Cooney has fought four times, for a total of less than 12 full rounds, since his knockout loss in a title bid against Larry Holmes in 1982. It will be his first fight since he was knocked out in the fifth round by Michael Spinks on June 15, 1987.

Yet Cooney will get \$2 million and Foreman will get \$1.5 million because there is a certain pro-wrestling-vaudeville appeal to the match, and the state of the heavyweight division is such that the winner could get a shot at champion Mike Tyson.

Hodkinson wins

KIRBY, England, Dec 15. (Reuter): Briton Paul Hodkinson retained his European featherweight title on Wednesday with a devastating eight-round stoppage of Frenchman Farid Benredjem.

Hodkinson dominated the contest and the only surprise was that the challenger did not buckle sooner.

Australia to ask Fina to ratify Housman's mark



Housman gives a victory salute after breaking the record. (Reuter wirephoto).

Sidhu misses century by three runs

Pakistan, India draw final Test

SIALKOT, Pakistan, Dec 15. (Reuter): The India-Pakistan cricket series ended in a 0-0 stalemate yesterday after a fighting 97 by Navjot Sidhu earned the Indians an honourable draw in the fourth and final game.

The five-day match was called off at tea on the final day with India 234 for seven in their second innings, leading by 308.

All four matches ended in a draw, a disappointing outcome to a series where fans had hoped for better things.

Sidhu was dropped twice, once shortly after the start of play, and later when on 64.

The Indians began the day at 102 for four with Sidhu, declared Man of the Match, on 54 and Tendulkar on 33.

They defied the Pakistan bowlers for 100 minutes and put on an invaluable 101 for the fifth

wicket before Tendulkar was caught off Imran Khan shortly before lunch.

The 16-year-old batted with a maturity far beyond his years and handled the Pakistan attack like a seasoned campaigner.

Pakistan's other successes came in the afternoon session with the wickets of Kapil Dev and Sidhu.

Kapil was trapped leg before by pace bowler Zahir Khan for 56 and the same bowler also accounted for Sidhu, who was

caught by Imran at deep gully after spending 347 minutes at the crease, hitting 13 fours.

Imran was clearly disappointed with the series. "We did not achieve anything of significance during the four Tests. Rather we discovered more of our weaknesses," he said.

"Our catching was worse and if we continue to drop catches in the same way we stand little chance of winning in Australia."

Pakistan go to Australia later this month for three Test series.

India said injuries to pace bowlers had been a factor in the Pakistan failure to force victory from a strong position in the first two Tests.

But he was very happy with the supervision of the series by two neutral English umpires John Holder and John Hampshire.

"Neutral umpiring was the main factor in achieving a controversy-free series. This was the best aspect of the rubber," he said.

Indian captain Krishnamachari Srikkanth was delighted with the series outcome. "No one gave us a chance when we left India a month ago. People talked of Pakistan winning by a 3-0 margin," he said.

"But we have drawn the series and in the final Test we were able to dictate the terms. I'm delighted at what the team effort has achieved."

Srikkanth felt more comfortable with neutral umpiring and said there should be neutral

officials in every series.

Of Tendulkar, he said: "He is a lovely bat and immensely gifted. He rose to the occasion in adverse circumstances and exhibited perfect temperament."

The two sides now play four one-day internationals, starting in Peshawar tomorrow.

Scoreboard

INDIA first innings 324 (S. Manjeet 72, M. Azharuddin 52, Wasim Akram five for 101).

PAKISTAN first innings 250 (Rameez Rahe 56, Vivek Razdan five for 79).

INDIA second innings (overnight 102 for four).

K. Srikkanth c Wasim Akram b Imran 3

N. Sidhu c Imran b Zahir 97

S. Manjeet lbw b Imran 4

M. Azharuddin c Shoaib b Wasim Akram 4

R. Shastri lbw b Wasim Akram 0

Imran 57

Kapil Dev lbw b Zahir 27

M. Prabhakar not out 11

K. More not out 17

Extras (b-5 lb-7 nb-2) 14

Total (for seven wickets) 234

Fall of wickets: 1-102 3-384-385 5-139 6-198 7-207

Did not bat Maninder Singh, Vivek Razdan.

Bowling: Wasim Akram 32-17-41-2, Imran Khan 22-4-68-3, Shoaib Mohammad 1-1-0-0, Waqar Younis 16-1-63-0, Zahir Khan 13-0-50-2.

Man of the Match: Navjot Sidhu

Result: match drawn. Four-Test series drawn 0-0.



Border: wants to end year in style

Aussies seek 6th victory of 1989

HOBART, Australia, Dec 15. (Reuter): Australia will ease off the bowling accelerator for the second Test against Sri Lanka in a bid to secure their sixth win of an unbeaten 1989 and continue their streak of success for 15 years.

The last test match of the 1980s between the youngest Test nation and one of the two most senior should see Sri Lanka, their confidence boosted by an honourable draw in Brisbane, back to full strength for the inaugural Test on Tasmanian soil.

Rumesh Ratnayake, who missed the first Test with a side injury, is expected to join Ravi Ratnayake, fit again after bowling just 8.5 overs in Brisbane, and Graeme Labrooy in the touring side's pace attack for the match starting tomorrow.

Australia have gone off the boil since returning from England but have still won five of their 10 Test matches this year, the best undefeated spell since Ian Chappell's side went 13 games without defeat between 1972 and 1974.

"The year has been fantastic and we shouldn't get too upset with a couple of draws. But to come here and win would cap off the year perfectly," Border told journalists yesterday. "It would be a great launch pad for bigger and better things."

Border may bank on home town pride and pick medium pacers Campbell alongside fellow Tasmanian David Boon. Following the failure of the Australians' four-man pace attack to dispose of Pakistan and New Zealand, who drew a test in Perth last month.

"I've got the feeling it's time to give him a go," Border said. "Campbell is likely to replace Carl Rackemann, who showed interest on his home pitch in Brisbane. This surprise selection for the Ashes tour, Campbell played in the first Test against England this year and has become a much tighter bowler."

The need to inject more guile into the attack has led to the recall of leg-spinner Peter Sleep, who will attempt to repeat the success of fellow leggie Trevor Hohns during the 4-0 thrashing of England in the Ashes series.

"His inclusion gives me some variation and I prefer to bowl spinners because it works well," Border said.

Sleep's inclusion for his 13th Test in 11 years displays the lack of depth in Australia's bowling compared with the abundance of young batting talent in the country.

After claiming just 24 Test wickets at an average cost of 51.16 runs, he was picked as the spinner in form despite only taking nine wickets this season at an average of 57.11.

His first Test in Tasmania will be the second ground to stage a Test match, expected to be full to its 13,000 capacity for the first two days of the Test.

Teams — Australia (from) — Allan Border (captain), David Boon, Mark Taylor, Tom Moody, Dean Jones, Steve Waugh, Ian Healy, Carl Rackemann, Terry Alderman, Peter Sleep, Merv Hughes, Greg Campbell.

Sri Lanka — to be announced.



Sapre and Bastiere triumph

JAYASAPRE and Clara Bastiere won the SAS Bridge Tournament, sponsored by 7-Up at the SAS Hotel recently.

Sapre and Bastiere finished the event ahead of Lollo Maitre and Nabila Akel, who took second place.

Third place in the tournament went to Doma Materny and Bianca Moussali.

The tournament was directed by Doma Materny. She was assisted by Bianca Moussali. Materny thanked the sponsors, 7-Up, for their assistance in making the tournament a success.

The SAS Ladies Bridge Club also announced that it would hold another tournament, sponsored by Tangera, tomorrow at the SAS Hotel. The tournament will start at 9.00am. Above and right: some of the participants during play.



Milan to meet Mechelen

Bayern draw PSV in quarterfinals

Bayern draw PSV in quarterfinals

Milan to meet Mechelen

Quarterfinal draws:

European Cup:

CFKA Sofia (Bulgaria) v Marseille (France)

Quarterfinal draws:

European Cup:

CFKA Sofia (Bulgaria) v Marseille (France)

Quarterfinal draws:

European Cup:

CFKA Sofia (Bulgaria) v Marseille (France)

Quarterfinal draws:

European Cup:

CFKA Sofia (Bulgaria) v Marseille (France)

Quarterfinal draws:

European Cup:

CFKA Sofia (Bulgaria) v Marseille (France)

Quarterfinal draws:

European Cup:

CFKA Sofia (Bulgaria) v Marseille (France)

Quarterfinal draws:

European Cup:

CFKA Sofia (Bulgaria) v Marseille (France)

Quarterfinal draws:

European Cup:

CFKA Sofia (Bulgaria) v Marseille (France)

Quarterfinal draws:

European Cup:

CFKA Sofia (Bulgaria) v Marseille (France)

Quarterfinal draws:

European Cup:

CFKA Sofia (Bulgaria) v Marseille (France)

Quarterfinal draws:

European Cup:

CFKA Sofia (Bulgaria) v Marseille (France)

Quarterfinal draws:

European Cup:

CFKA Sofia (Bulgaria) v Marseille (France)

Quarterfinal draws:

European Cup:

CFKA Sofia (Bulgaria) v Marseille (France)

SPORTS

Drugs cast shadow over annual soccer game

LONDON, Dec 15. (Reuters): Colombia's drug wars have cast a shadow over the annual clash between Europe's and South America's soccer champions which has had a quiet decade after being wracked by controversy in the 1960s and 1970s.

Atletico Nacional of Medellin, the central city that is base for one of Colombia's infamous drug cartels, take on AC Milan in the World Club Championship match in Tokyo on Sunday.

The Colombian champions, who make up the core of the national side which has reached the World Cup finals for the first time since 1962, have prepared for the prestige clash in a vacuum.

The vendetta murder of a referee a month ago brought to a halt all domestic soccer, including qualifying for the next edition of the Libertadores de America Cup, the continental club championship. Nacional won this year.

The intercontinental match was switched to the neutral ground of Tokyo on Dec 1980, after gaining notoriety as perhaps the ugliest event on football's world calendar for over 20 years of home-and-away finals.

AC Milan are no strangers to its dark history, having been involved in two of the very worst clashes, against Pele's Santos in 1963 and Carlos Bilardo's Estudiantes six years later.

The Italians lost a violent third match against the Brazilians 1-0 after each side had won their home leg 4-2.

Santos defender Ismael was sent off for hitting Milan's Brazilian striker Amorim but they clinched the title with a penalty.

AC Milan gained some measure of revenge over South America when they wrested the title from Estudiantes de La Plata in 1969.

The Argentine side had roughed up the Manchester United of Bobby Charlton, George Best and Denis Law on their way to the trophy the year before.

AC Milan were 3-0 up after the first leg at home but did not get their hands on the trophy on goal aggregate until the end of a bruising 2-1 defeat in Buenos Aires amid some of the dirtiest play ever witnessed on a football field.

Argentine goalkeeper Alberto Poletti and defender Jorge Aguirre Suarez were banned for life.

The government of General Onganias held Milan's Argentine-born striker Nester Combin under arrest for several hours because he had not done his military service.

Glasgow Celtic came out of three clashes with Racing Club of Argentina in 1975 severely battered, while in the 1970s both John Cruyff's Ajax Amsterdam and Franz Beckenbauer's Bayern Munich agreed to play for the trophy only once despite qualifying as European champions three times each.

In the late 1970s the event turned into a meaningless affair between the South American champions and the European Cup runners up. It was not even held in 1975 and 1977.

The South Americans were on top with 10 wins to eight before the match was moved to Tokyo and they have tipped the balance even further in their favour since.

Milan's fellow Italians Juventus beat Argentinos Juniors, Diego Maradona's first club, on penalties in 1985, ending a five match winning sequence for South America.

Romario sharpens his skills

AMSTERDAM, Dec 15. (Reuters): Brazilian striker Romario de Faria Souza has the goal-scoring sensation of Dutch soccer, eager to show his hosts just how much he has learnt from them when the two meet in Rotterdam next Wednesday.

The 23-year-old, who joined PSC Eindhoven from Vasco da Gama of Rio de Janeiro in October last year, has brought Brazilian flair to a league reeling from the exodus of world-class players such as Raul Gullit, Marco van Basten and Ronald Koeman.

Romario says his own game has also grown up since he joined PSV, Dutch champions for the past four seasons.

"Since I came here I've learnt how to fight more for the ball. I've developed my running power and gained extra pace," he told Reuters. "I've become a more complete footballer."

"In Brazil, football is based so much on the skills of the individual. Here I have to work much harder in games and train harder because the style is a lot more physical," he said.

Brazil have never beaten the Dutch and Romario does not expect this to change next week, despite the absence of several Dutch players because of injury and club commitments.

"With the fans behind them and conditions they are used to they have a 70-80 per cent chance of winning," he said.

"They have four or five of the world's top players and play some of the world's most progressive soccer."

Romario, a short, stocky figure who allies powerful acceleration to supreme close control and dribbling skills, made his name as top scorer in the 1988 Olympic soccer tournament.

Shortly afterwards PSV bought him from Vasco da

Robson scores twice
England beat Yugoslavia

ENGLAND, Dec 15. (Reuters): Captain Bryan Robson scored twice to spur England to a 2-1 win over fellow World Cup finalists Yugoslavia on Wednesday.

Gary Lineker was fouled on the right in England's first attack and Robson rose unmarked above the cold Yugoslav defence to head home Chris Waddle's floated free kick after only 40 seconds.

Striker Haris Skoro equalised with a solo goal in the 17th minute as the Yugoslavs began to

gain control of midfield. He ran straight at goal from the halfway line and slipped through a static defence unsure who was supposed to pick him up to rifle a crisp shot past the diving Peter Shilton.

Robson scored the winner in the 69th minute when England, with two fresh substitutes on, launched a new wave of attacks.

Right back Paul Parker was involved in a one-two with Lineker and slipped between two

defenders to send in a low centre from the right which Steve Bull failed to take. But Robson, coming in behind at the far post, slotted the ball home.

Robson's goals, no doubt warmly welcomed by manager Bobby Robson, were England's first of the season after three scoreless draws. His opener was the fastest ever scored at Wembley.

The victory ended a worrying goal famine the manager had sought to end by fielding Bull alongside Lineker up front. But they owed more to the creative prompting of Waddle, the one player in the side with a continental club in contrast to the cosmopolitan Yugoslavs.

Yugoslavia, like England, unbeaten in their World Cup qualifying matches, were not at full strength with five of their predominantly foreign-based first string players absent.

While they were fresh, Yugoslavia, with the talented Dragan Stojkovic pulling the strings in a five-man midfield and only Bayern Munich striker Radmilo Mihajlovic roaming up front, held possession for long spells of the first half and greater commitment might have seen them embarrass the England defence more often.

Bull's best chance came five minutes before the break when he received the ball after a combination between Waddle and Robson, but Partizan Belgrade defender Predrag Spasic, who had kept a close eye on the striker all evening, blocked his shot.

Skoro shot into the side net-

ting from close range three minutes into the second half and the Yugoslavs only had one more clear chance, substitute goalkeeper Dave Beasant saving point blank from Zoran Vulic five minutes from time.

England — Peter Shilton (Dave Beasant 45th minute) Paul Parker, Des Walker, Terry Butcher, Stuart Pearce (Tony Dorigo 45) Michael Thomas (David Platt 67), David Rocastle (Steve Hodge 67), Bryan Robson (Steve McMahon 75), Chris Waddle, Steve Bull, Gary Lineker.

Yugoslavia — Tomislav Ivkovic, Vujadin Stanjkovic, Faruk Hadzibegic, Zoran Vulic, Predrag Spasic (Gordan Petric 80) Safer Susic (Andrej Panadic 75), Dragoljub Brnovic (Robert Prostak 75), Dragan Stojkovic, Toni Savevski, Haris Skoro, Radmilo Mihajlovic.

Manager Robson said of his captain: "On that performance there is no better player in the world. He is inspirational and to score two goals on top of that is unbelievable."

Yugoslav coach Ivica Osim said the difference between the two sides was that: "We did not punish mistakes as efficiently as England did."

We managed to contain the English attack, but Robson ran into spaces and we had no answer to that.

England played to their strengths and probably play the fastest football in Europe, but they will have problems against teams who are able to slow the game down better than we did."

Swiss box but pressure hit the Swiss wide.

Spain took the lead in the 43rd minute after Swiss defender Heribert Baumann elbowed aside Manolo Sanchez in the penalty area and Real Madrid's Michel converted from the spot.

Adrian Knup equalised in the



W. German team

Austrian songwriter Udo Juergens (at the piano) and members of the West German soccer team go through rehearsal of the national team's song for next year's World Cup finals in Italy. (Reuters wirephoto)

Spain edge Switzerland

SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE, Dec 15. (Reuters): Local boy Felipe Minambres marked his debut with a goal as Spain beat Switzerland 2-1 in a World Cup warm-up match in the Canary Islands on Wednesday.

Spanish coach Luis Suarez, whose team face a tough start in Italy with games against Uruguay and Belgium, experimented with three new players including Tenerife's Minambres who scored the 60th minute winner.

Michel Gonzalez put the hosts ahead from the penalty spot two minutes before half-time but Adrian Knup equalised two minutes after the interval.

Both teams found the going tough on a pitch made sticky by rain at the Heliodoro Rodriguez Stadium in Santa Cruz. But the young and inexperienced Swiss team showed a marked improvement under their new West German coach Uli Stielike but were hindered by weak finishing.

Former Real Madrid star Stielike replaced Marc Hottiger with Harald Gaemperle in the second half but the coach was then sent off for distracting the referee in making the substitutions.

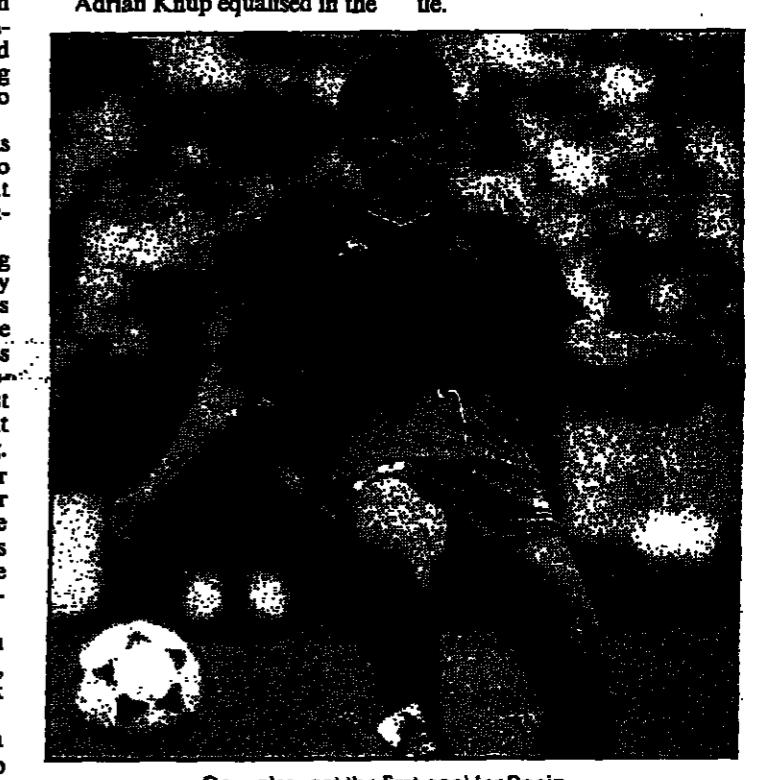
Spain, who have never been beaten by the Swiss in 16 games, did not stage a serious attack until the 24th minute.

Francisco Villarroya took a pass from captain Emilio Butragueno just outside the

47th minute, heading past goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta from a free-kick by Alain Sutter, but second-half substitute Minambres struck just 15 minutes into his debut, chipping the ball neatly over goalkeeper Martin Brunner's head to wrap up the tie.

Spain took the lead in the 43rd minute after Swiss defender Heribert Baumann elbowed aside Manolo Sanchez in the penalty area and Real Madrid's Michel converted from the spot.

Adrian Knup equalised in the



Gonzalez: got the first goal for Spain

Norwich to face Derby

LONDON, Dec 15. (Reuters): Two of the English League's less fashionable clubs, Norwich City and Derby County, have a rare chance to divert attention away from their more glamourous rivals when they play each other tomorrow.

Normally, Liverpool's visit to Chelsea or Manchester United's home game against Tottenham would take centre stage but, for once, the two sides with the most formidable recent records in the First Division are to be found outside the big cities, playing at Norwich.

Derby have won six and drawn one of their last seven games, scoring 20 goals and conceding two, while Norwich have won four and lost one of their last six, scoring ten and conceding two. Norwich are now fourth in the table, five points behind leaders Arsenal with Derby three points further back in seventh place.

"On the face of it there couldn't be a better place to be on Saturday," said Derby striker Paul Goddard, who has shared 27 goals with partner Dean Saunders this season. "I must admit I didn't realise how good our recent record was and how good Norwich's was."

"You look around at our squad this year and we've got some good players. We finished fifth last season but I think we've got some good players. We finished fifth last season but I think we have grown up a lot since then. We had a hard start this year but we have really got it back now."



Romario

Gama for \$2.8 million and he topped the Dutch scoring lists last season with 19 goals from 24 First Division matches. He is averaging a goal a game this season.

Like so many intuitive goal scorers, Romario has found difficulties fitting into a team pattern and these have been exacerbated by problems in adjusting to life in the Netherlands.

Romario, who lives with his wife in luxury PSV accommodation, says he has no problems with his teammates on the pitch but his lack of Dutch makes social life difficult.

He also speaks very little English and finds it hard to communicate even within PSV's multi-lingual team.

Last month the Dutch press reported a rift between him and senior PSV players including striker Wim Kieft and Danish midfielder Soren Lerby, who were apparently frustrated by the Brazilian's alleged selfishness on the field.

"I've not totally adapted to PSV's style yet because it was very different from what I was used to in Brazil. But with time I'm adjusting my game and fitting in better," he said.

Romario, a short, stocky figure who allies powerful acceleration to supreme close control and dribbling skills, made his name as top scorer in the 1988 Olympic soccer tournament.

Shortly afterwards PSV bought him from Vasco da



Discover
gold

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

15
J. D. W. 1989

Kingdom, Quirot voted best athletes of 1989

MONTE CARLO, Dec 15. (Reuter): Track stars Roger Kingdom of the US and Ana Quirot of Cuba were voted the best male and female athletes of 1989 in a world-wide survey conducted by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

Kingdom, the double Olympic champion who set a world record of 12.92

seconds for the 110 metres hurdles in Zurich in August, totalled 1,857 points in a poll of athletics officials, statisticians and journalists, the IAAF announced at its annual gala dinner on Wednesday.

Men's runner-up on 1,575 was Said Aouita of Morocco, the world's greatest middle-distance runner, who won the IAAF's overall Grand Prix title for the

third time in four years. Javier Sotomayor of Cuba, who set a world high jump record of 2.44 metres in San Juan in July, was third with 1,515 points.

Quirot, unbeaten in 33 successive races in the past three years, won the women's title with 1,731 points ahead of Romanian middle-distance runner Paula Ivan.

the world mile record holder, who totalled 1,656. American hurdler Sandra Farmer-Patrick was third on 1,072.

Kingdom's world record and Quirot's one minute 54.44 seconds victory in the World Cup women's 800 metres in Barcelona were voted the best individual performances of the year.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Charity match

EAST BERLIN, Dec 15. (Reuter): Soccer stars from East and West Germany will team up next year to play a benefit match against a "World XI" in Dresden.

Master beaten

LONDON, Dec 15. (Reuter): International chess master David Levy, who once bet he would not be defeated by a computer chess programme, lost each of his four games against the world chess champion computer programme known as DT yesterday.

Czech player

PRAGUE, Dec 15. (Reuter): Ivo Kralovec has become the first Czechoslovak soccer player to benefit from the country's new-found political freedom by joining West German club St Pauli.

Brazilian forward

ROME, Dec 15. (AP): Rome's sports daily Corriere dello Sport reported yesterday that Napoli has signed Brazilian forward Bebeto for the next season.

E. German star

HAMBURG, West Germany, Dec 15. (AP): West German soccer club Bayer Leverkusen will sign East German star Andreas Thom for three years, Leverkusen officials said yesterday.

Soccer player

LONDON, Dec 15. (AP): Roy Wegerle, the soccer player qualified to represent four countries, has chosen the United States ahead of England, Scotland and West Germany, press reports said yesterday.

Tennis ace

GENEVA, Dec 15. (AP): Bulgarian-born tennis ace Manuela Malevare Frangere, ranked ninth in the world, will make her debut as a Swiss player next month, the Swiss Tennis Federation said yesterday.

Milan beaten

LONDON, Dec 15. (Reuter): Philips Milan, without injured American star Bob McAdoo, were beaten 84-73 by European basketball champions Jugoplastika Split in the men's Champion Clubs Cup yesterday.

Friendly match

ROME, Dec 15. (Reuter): The United States have withdrawn from a planned soccer friendly against World Cup hosts Italy after they were drawn to play them in next year's finals.

Rally threatened

PARIS, Dec 15. (Reuter): A diplomatic row between France and Libya could threaten this month's Paris-Dakar motor rally, French diplomatic sources said yesterday. Competitors were to land in Tripoli on Dec 28 and drive four stages on Libyan territory but Libya has cut shipping and communications links with France in a surprise move reflecting worsening political relations.

Soviet boxers

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Dec 15. (AP): World Boxing Council president Jose Sulaiman predicted Wednesday that the Soviets will dominate world heavyweight boxing in the 1990s, replacing the Americans who currently prevail in the sport.

Top promoter

LONDON, Dec 15. (UPI): Top boxing promoter Frank Warren yesterday appeared in public for the first time since the night he almost died after being shot by a mystery gunman.

Fenech recovering

SYDNEY, Australia, Dec 15. (AP): Three-time world boxing champion Jeff Fenech of Australia was yesterday recuperating at home after undergoing surgery to his right hand in the hope it will save his career.

Beckel ahead

DUBLIN, Dec 15. (Reuter): West Germany's Martina Beckel swept into the lead for the first time in the Tenpin Bowling World Cup yesterday, showing the convincing form which earned her third place in the event two years ago.

Wilander rallies for win

Sweden take 1-0 Davis Cup lead



Wilander fought back after losing the first set

STUTTGART, West Germany, Dec 15. (Reuter): Mats Wilander extracted slow and tortured revenge on Carl-Uwe Steeb with a five-set victory today to give Sweden a 1-0 lead in their bid to win back the Davis Cup from West Germany.

Wilander, humiliated by Steeb in the opening rubber of last year's final in Gothenburg, took nearly four-and-a-half hours to win the return match 5-7, 7-6, 6-7, 6-2, 6-3.

Right until the final point, the West German fans in Stuttgart's Schleyer Hall believed their local man could repeat his stunning win of last year.

Steb, who repeatedly pulled back from behind to buoy his team's hopes, saved the first matchpoint with a backhand winner but was unable to get to a superb Wilander volley in the second set.

The defeat put the pressure on world number two Boris Becker to win the day's second singles against Stefan Edberg if West Germany were to have a chance of holding on to the Cup they took from four-times winners

Sweden 12 months ago. Wilander, who has slipped from world number one a year ago to 12th, made life difficult for himself from the start.

Leading 5-2 in the first set he lost concentration and let his opponent back into the match, winning only two of the remaining 22 points as Steeb, ranked 15th in the world, broke him twice to take the set.

Wilander had a poor year, losing all three of his Grand Slam titles and reaching only one final — in Boston when he was beaten by Ecuador's Andres Gomez in straight sets.

His worries have been compounded by the recent news that his father has cancer, a matter he prefers not to discuss on the tennis circuit.

The noisy crowd added to his concentration problems today and in the second set he again allowed Steeb to pull level from 2-5 down.

Wilander held set points in the eighth, ninth and 10th games but was unable to convert them, although he took the ensuing tiebreak with surprising ease 7-0.

World class angler dies

MIAMI, Dec 15. (AP): A world class angler who held several competitive fishing titles and was featured on a BBC television show, "The Old Lady and the Sea," died Monday from complications from a fall. She was 89.

Helen Robinson set women's world records for every line class that existed during the 1960s. Among the records were the 1961 capture of a 796-pound (361-kilogramme) black marlin and a 584-pound (264-kilogramme) black marlin in 1962, both from Pines Bay, Panama.

In 1972, the British Broadcasting Corp. produced an hour-long television special, "The Old Lady and the Sea," on Mrs. Robinson. She was 72 at the time.

The BBC filmed a fishing trip in Cairns, Australia, where Mrs. Robinson hooked a marlin with her fly-fishing technique, estimated at 1,000 pounds (453 kilograms). But it got away.

A Colorado native and a former investment counsellor, she moved to south Florida with her husband, Webster "Doc" Robinson, because of health reasons.

"She was less competitive than he was, but she started tagging along, and she liked it," said Vic Dunaway, editor of Florida Sportsman. "Her drive came later. After he died, she decided to go ahead and make sure the world knew about his accomplishments."



Drumbeat, under spinnaker, heads for line honours. (Reuter wirephoto)

Bond wins first race



Bond, at the helm of his yacht, receives directions from skipper Peter Gilmour (right). (Reuter wirephoto)

ITF-ATP war could end

STUTTGART, West Germany, Dec 15. (Reuter): A bitter row between players and the International Tennis Federation (ITF) over the finale to next year's programme may be resolved by merging two rival events, German tennis officials said yesterday.

The German Tennis Federation (DTB) has offered its services as mediator between the warring sides and president Claus Stauder said a solution might be found early next year.

Players are angry about ITF plans for a \$6 million Grand Slam Cup in West Germany next

December which would overshadow the finals, also in West Germany planned by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) which takes over the running of the Tour from January.

Many, including West Germany's Boris Becker and American John McEnroe, have suggested they would boycott the Cup, saying the prize money was far too high for one event, and the DTB has refused to sanction it.

Stauder had talks yesterday with ITF president Philippe Chatrier in Stuttgart for the

some key pending details, including the selection and composition of the joint team.

The two sides agreed in past talks on a flag and team name for the games, which will be held in Beijing in September, 1990.

Today's meeting, the third since Dec 1, was closed to foreign reporters. Ten Korean reporters who were allowed to cover the talks, which lasted three hours and 45 minutes, later issued a pool report.

Sports talks are among several channels of dialogue in progress between the two Koreas. Other contacts aimed at easing tension and helping reunite separated family members in the two sides have made little progress.

Davis Cup final between West Germany and Sweden, and said afterwards the meeting had gone well.

"I get the feeling there is a certain readiness to negotiate with the ATP and maybe even, if it is possible, to make one event out of two but this isn't concrete," Stauder said.

"What we can offer and what we will try to do is to bring the ATP and the ITF together to find out whether it might work or not. If not we would have to consider our position again," he added.

Stauder said the DTB was still opposed to the Grand Slam Cup.

The BBC filmed a fishing trip in Cairns, Australia, where Mrs. Robinson hooked a marlin with her fly-fishing technique, estimated at 1,000 pounds (453 kilograms). But it got away.

A Colorado native and a former investment counsellor, she moved to south Florida with her husband, Webster "Doc" Robinson, because of health reasons.

"She was less competitive than he was, but she started tagging along, and she liked it," said Vic Dunaway, editor of Florida Sportsman. "Her drive came later. After he died, she decided to go ahead and make sure the world knew about his accomplishments."

The BBC filmed a fishing trip in Cairns, Australia, where Mrs. Robinson hooked a marlin with her fly-fishing technique, estimated at 1,000 pounds (453 kilograms). But it got away.

A Colorado native and a former investment counsellor, she moved to south Florida with her husband, Webster "Doc" Robinson, because of health reasons.

"She was less competitive than he was, but she started tagging along, and she liked it," said Vic Dunaway, editor of Florida Sportsman. "Her drive came later. After he died, she decided to go ahead and make sure the world knew about his accomplishments."

The BBC filmed a fishing trip in Cairns, Australia, where Mrs. Robinson hooked a marlin with her fly-fishing technique, estimated at 1,000 pounds (453 kilograms). But it got away.

A Colorado native and a former investment counsellor, she moved to south Florida with her husband, Webster "Doc" Robinson, because of health reasons.

"She was less competitive than he was, but she started tagging along, and she liked it," said Vic Dunaway, editor of Florida Sportsman. "Her drive came later. After he died, she decided to go ahead and make sure the world knew about his accomplishments."

The BBC filmed a fishing trip in Cairns, Australia, where Mrs. Robinson hooked a marlin with her fly-fishing technique, estimated at 1,000 pounds (453 kilograms). But it got away.

A Colorado native and a former investment counsellor, she moved to south Florida with her husband, Webster "Doc" Robinson, because of health reasons.

"She was less competitive than he was, but she started tagging along, and she liked it," said Vic Dunaway, editor of Florida Sportsman. "Her drive came later. After he died, she decided to go ahead and make sure the world knew about his accomplishments."

The BBC filmed a fishing trip in Cairns, Australia, where Mrs. Robinson hooked a marlin with her fly-fishing technique, estimated at 1,000 pounds (453 kilograms). But it got away.

A Colorado native and a former investment counsellor, she moved to south Florida with her husband, Webster "Doc" Robinson, because of health reasons.

"She was less competitive than he was, but she started tagging along, and she liked it," said Vic Dunaway, editor of Florida Sportsman. "Her drive came later. After he died, she decided to go ahead and make sure the world knew about his accomplishments."

The BBC filmed a fishing trip in Cairns, Australia, where Mrs. Robinson hooked a marlin with her fly-fishing technique, estimated at 1,000 pounds (453 kilograms). But it got away.

A Colorado native and a former investment counsellor, she moved to south Florida with her husband, Webster "Doc" Robinson, because of health reasons.

"She was less competitive than he was, but she started tagging along, and she liked it," said Vic Dunaway, editor of Florida Sportsman. "Her drive came later. After he died, she decided to go ahead and make sure the world knew about his accomplishments."

The BBC filmed a fishing trip in Cairns, Australia, where Mrs. Robinson hooked a marlin with her fly-fishing technique, estimated at 1,000 pounds (453 kilograms). But it got away.

A Colorado native and a former investment counsellor, she moved to south Florida with her husband, Webster "Doc" Robinson, because of health reasons.

"She was less competitive than he was, but she started tagging along, and she liked it," said Vic Dunaway, editor of Florida Sportsman. "Her drive came later. After he died, she decided to go ahead and make sure the world knew about his accomplishments."

The BBC filmed a fishing trip in Cairns, Australia, where Mrs. Robinson hooked a marlin with her fly-fishing technique, estimated at 1,000 pounds (453 kilograms). But it got away.

A Colorado native and a former investment counsellor, she moved to south Florida with her husband, Webster "Doc" Robinson, because of health reasons.

"She was less competitive than he was, but she started tagging along, and she liked it," said Vic Dunaway, editor of Florida Sportsman. "Her drive came later. After he died, she decided to go ahead and make sure the world knew about his accomplishments."

The BBC filmed a fishing trip in Cairns, Australia, where Mrs. Robinson hooked a marlin with her fly-fishing technique, estimated at 1,000 pounds (453 kilograms). But it got away.

A Colorado native and a former investment counsellor, she moved to south Florida with her husband, Webster "Doc" Robinson, because of health reasons.

"She was less competitive than he was, but she started tagging along, and she liked it," said Vic Dunaway, editor of Florida Sportsman. "Her drive came later. After he died, she decided to go ahead and make sure the world knew about his accomplishments."

The BBC filmed a fishing trip in Cairns, Australia, where Mrs. Robinson hooked a marlin with her fly-fishing technique, estimated at 1,000 pounds (453 kilograms). But it got away.

A Colorado native and a former investment counsellor, she moved to south Florida with her husband, Webster "Doc" Robinson, because of health reasons.

"She was less competitive than he was, but she started tagging along, and she liked it," said Vic Dunaway, editor of Florida Sportsman. "Her drive came later. After he died, she decided to go ahead and make sure the world knew about his accomplishments."

The BBC filmed a fishing trip in Cairns, Australia, where Mrs. Robinson hooked a marlin with her fly-fishing technique, estimated at 1,000 pounds (453 kilograms). But it got away.

A Colorado native and a former investment counsellor, she moved to south Florida with her husband, Webster "Doc" Robinson, because of health reasons.

"She was less competitive than he was, but she started tagging along, and